

New tested solution to combat *Geotrichum candidum* and *Penicillium* sp

The citrus industry now has a solution to combat the major post-harvest diseases they face each campaign: *Penicillium digitatum* and *Geotrichum candidum*. These fungi, which generate significant losses to the sector, have become a major concern for the industry. As such, TECNIDEX, as part of its ongoing commitment to provide the best solution in post-harvest sanitation, has managed to develop a solution; Bravatia ® and Textar® 40 PZ for citrus, a combination which yielded the best test results.

BRAVATIA ®, authorized by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, is the new product for the control of *Geotrichum candidum* in citrus. It is based on propiconazole and leaves residues authorised in the EU, the U.S., and other countries. Textar ® 40 PZ is a prochloraz based broad-spectrum fungicide for the control of key diseases, especially *Penicillium* sp, in post-harvest, storage and marketing of citrus fruits.

Trials have been conducted in recent years on mandarins, limes, oranges and Grapefruits. The results of these trials corroborate the treatment's adequacy for all of the citrus varieties that were analyzed.

Data from the trials on artificially infected citrus place the treatment's efficacy above 95% for all varieties. This data revealed the synergistic action between the two products and confirmed that using them protects citrus of both fungi; a solution that allows controlling them during post-harvest. The treatment's efficiency is expected to be higher when applied industrially due to the lower incidence of the diseases at this level.

Recent results obtained in 2013 in trials on Oranules infected with several doses of *Penicillium digitatum* Oranules revealed that, after 7 days, the control sample (which was untreated) decayed 100%. Meanwhile, the rates of decay on the samples that were treated with Bravatia ® and Textar ® 40 PZ were significantly lower. The treatment's efficiency using Bravatia ® at 0.6% and Textar ® 40 PZ at 0.15% was of 98%.

The treatment was similarly effective against the *Geotrichum candidum*. Data from the trials conducted in Arrufatinas showed that the treatment's efficiency was of 96%.

Source : <http://www.freshplaza.com/article/116971/New-tested-solution-to-combat-Geotrichum-candidum-and-Penicillium-sp> (20/01/2014)