

PyBo Technical Report

CROP	Olives
PESTS	Lacebugs

DATE: December 2001

PRODUCER: Alan Major Texas Qld

DISTRICT: Southern Darling Downs

CROP STAGE: Trees were 3-6 years old, around 4m high and fruit-bearing.

PEST PROBLEM: The Lacebugs were causing damage to the leaves to the extent that the food manufacture by photo synthesis was being affected and could not support the filling out of the olives.

LIKELY HARVEST PROSPECTS: The expected crop was at about less than a half to a third of normal.

PILOT TEST: Wed 14th November 2001 Temp 25C Light cloud.

PEST NUMBERS There were plenty of insects on the undersides of leaves of most trees

EQUIPMENT: Tractor mounted orchard blower - 1500 litre tank.

DILUTION & APPLICATION RATE: A thorough spray was done at 1ml/L. Insects were definitely effected and dead within a few minutes. The application rate worked out at 1.7 litres of spray solution per tree.

ASSESSMENT: Next day the lacebug population was almost gone.

THE DOLLARS: The grove of over 2000 trees would need about 4000 litres of spray. At 1ml per litre the 4 litres of concentrate would cost \$544 or 13.6 cents per litre. This means the cost of spray for treating a tree was 23.1 cents. The likely harvest from these trees is around \$10/tree however, an earlier spray to kill the lacebugs before they reduced the fruit set and impeded fruit development could have lifted the harvest to \$20 - \$30 per tree. (Py-Bo cannot take all the credit; extra rain would have made a difference as well).

SUMMARY: Alan is partway through conversion to full organic. It may well be said that once he has his soil and beneficials to the levels of an established organic grove that the lacebugs and other pests would be less of a problem. However, acknowledging that to a point, a producer has to be able to survive financially or he'll never get there. Because there is no residue, Py-Bo only kills the insects it hits. Beneficials from 'over the fence' can return... and will.

Any tree fruit crop attacked by any variety of bug, caterpillar, aphid, etc, would respond to similar Py-Bo application rates.

