

A globally approved sunflower management solution

Article supplied by BASF

The Clearfield® production system has been widely accepted by South African producers since its introduction in 2010. BASF's continuous investment in the latest technologies primarily aims to offer value to producers. With this goal at the forefront of its objectives, BASF and its partners have developed the latest Clearfield® Plus production system, which has grown by leaps and bounds.

Clearfield® Plus qualified seed

Before sunflower cultivars can be classified and sold as Clearfield® Plus seed, BASF's seed partners undergo several years of stringent qualification trials. In addition, Clearfield® Plus cultivars are not genetically modified and contain a natural herbicide-tolerant gene that is bred into the seed companies' existing cultivars.

Euro-Lightning® Plus herbicide

BASF also offers Euro-Lightning® Plus, the Clearfield® Plus herbicide for sunflowers. The new formulation of Euro-Lightning® Plus is designed for improved weed control in Clearfield® Plus

sunflower fields through higher levels of herbicide adherence to target weeds.

Euro-Lightning® Plus eradicates yield-robbing weeds, thereby delivering cleaner fields. Under no-till conditions, excellent weed control has been observed where Euro-Lightning® Plus was applied.

It can only be used on Clearfield® Plus sunflower cultivars (original Clearfield® sunflower cultivars are also excluded).

The following is recommended:

- Clean spray tanks, hoses and nozzles with a suitable tank cleaning solution prior to mixing the Euro-Lightning® Plus solution.
- Use flowable (50%), high-quality ammonium sulphate.
- Do not use any surfactants that contain acidifying agents.
- Applications must be done within 32 days of planting.
- For good control, thorough coverage of the target weeds must be completed by the two- to six-leaf stage and the weed must be actively growing.
- Do not add any other crop protection products to the solution.
- Do not mix Euro-Lightning® Plus with any organophosphate or carbamate

insecticides and do not apply where these products have already been used.

Euro-Lightning® Plus label update

Some of the challenges experienced with Euro-Lightning® Plus included waiting period limitations for follow-up crops. These have been reduced and a few new crops have been added (*Table 1*).

Bellis®

Bellis®, BASF's flagship sunflower fungicide, contains two key active ingredients: Boscalid and F500®. These ingredients, along with the AgCelence® effect, are a powerful combination offering excellent control of *Alternaria* leaf spot. With AgCelence®, producers can expect yield increases through additional benefits such as increased plant health and stress tolerance. Bellis® is also registered for use in soya beans for rust control.

Bellis® Active

BASF now offers an AgCelence® solution for producers in lower disease pressure areas. Bellis® Active is the latest fungicide in row crops for the control of rust and *Alternaria* leaf spot in both sunflower and soya beans. Bellis® Active's optimal formulation is more suited to lower disease pressure areas, while still offering the AgCelence® effect of yield increase and ultimately a higher return on your investment.

Table 1: New follow-up crops and their waiting periods.

Crop	Waiting period	Changes
Clearfield® Plus sunflower	None	-
Wheat	Four months	-
Maize	Nine months	One-month reduction
Dry beans	Nine months	New crop and waiting period
Soya beans	Nine months	New crop and waiting period
All other crops	20 months	-

For more information, contact BASF South Africa on 011 203 2400 or visit www.agro.basf.co.za.