
The Pest Control Circular

No. 549

Sunkist Growers, Inc.

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Damage By Some Fuller Rose Beetle Trunk Treatments

Recent reports from field trials and grower applications in Southern California have shown potentially serious trunk damage where Stickem Special Tropical (SST), Stickem Green (SST & Tribasic Copper Sulfate) or "Deadban" were applied directly to the trunks of citrus trees.

Deadban is an experimental formulation of Lorsban in a Deadline-like base. Deadban has not yet been registered and has been available only in very small quantities for use under an experimental use permit. Stickem Green has shown promise since it is thicker, persists longer, and is believed to reduce the danger of phytophthora gummosis. Originally it was felt that the copper content would also repel snails. However, this year's experience has shown that snails readily cross it.

The injuries initially show up as cracks and gumming of the bark and, in the most severe cases, as actual killing of the bark tissues.

The damage with Stickem Special Tropical and Stickem Green has been serious only on top-worked trees and very young trees. It appears to be related to exposure to the sun. In the case of "Deadban," however, damage has been seen even on fully shaded trees.

Conclusions: It is still too early to tell whether Stickem Special will be a serious problem in the long run when applied directly to the trunk. It is clear, however, that some problems can occur when the treated trunk is exposed to direct sunlight. "Deadban," on the other hand, appears to have the potential for causing serious phytotoxicity when applied directly to the trunk.

Recommendations: We continue to recommend that application of sticky or Deadban-like trunk barriers only be made over a wrap of a polyester material such as Needle-punch, preferably with an overlay of plastic (such as Glad Wrap or Saran Wrap). (See also Sunkist Pest Control Circular No. 546.)



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