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HOW TO USE CONFIDOR® 350 SC TO CONTROL CANEGRUBS IN RATOON SUGAR CANE

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CONFIDOR® 350 SC is a liquid flowable (suspension concentrate) insecticide containing 350 grams of imidacloprid per litre. Imidacloprid belongs to a new class of insecticides called the chloronicotinyls. In many field trials conducted over the past several years, Confidor has been found to be very effective in reducing crop damage due to canegrubs. Because Confidor 350 SC is a liquid formulation, it is applied mixed with water using farm implements different to those used for the currently registered granular slow release and granular knockdown canegrub insecticides.

Confidor should be applied sub-surface as bands into soil moist at a depth of 75 to 125 mm. The bands can be applied in slits made by using coulters (61–66 cm), either as single slits down the middle of the stool (*stool split*), or as two slits no more than 50 cm apart down each side of the stool (*twin split or side dress*). Behind the coulter a narrow tyne is positioned allowing the delivery of the Confidor into the soil at the necessary depth via a delivery tube with a single terminal metering orifice adapted from a simple micro-irrigation 'home garden' type nozzle. Confidor should be applied in a minimum of 100–150 litres of water per hectare using a PTO or electric pump, with agitation of spray mixture.

Application of Confidor through trash blankets is best timed once the trash has become compacted, brittle and is actively decaying. Soil should be moist to allow easy penetration of the coulters.

Trials conducted by the BSES have shown that there is little difference in efficacy between the stool split and side-dress application of Confidor 350 SC for greyback canegrub (*Dermolepida albohirtum*). However, side-dress applications do offer more flexibility in the timing of application of Confidor compared to stool split applications. Against heavy infestations of Childers canegrub (*Antitrogus parvulus*), Confidor is most effective when applied as a side-dress application.