Last fall, Deadline MPs and Sluggo were broadcast with a spin spreader to control gray garden slugs in no-till winter wheat. A field near Suver was seeded in early November and replicated plots were treated with identical rates of both slug and snail baits in mid-November. A Sluggo/Deadline combination was also evaluated to see if there’s a complementary effect when the products are applied together.

The Sluggo/Deadline combination was essentially equal to separate applications of the materials. However, Fisher and Cacka report that “all bait treatments were statistically different from the untreated control.” Compared to control plots, the data indicate that all treatments resulted in “significant reductions in residual slug populations.” Yield data in treated and non-treated plots will be compiled this year to complete the study.

Multiple Crops

Sluggo has a broad label that includes grass seed crops, berries, field crops, vegetables, ornamentals, tree fruits and melons. It’s exempt from tolerances when used as a mollicide in or on all crops. Sluggo can be applied up to the day of harvest. A 2(ee) recommendation allows use rates of 10 to 44 pounds per acre for wheat, clover and grass seed, including ryegrass, Bermudagrass, bluegrass and fescue.

Contact your WFS field representative for information on use rates, timing and application recommendations. You can also get more details, including trial results, labels and MSDS at www.westernfarmservice.com. Sluggo is listed in the “featured products” section under the Product/Service heading. First Choice is a registered trademark of Western Farm Service Inc. Sluggo is a registered trademark of W. Neudorff GmbH KG.

Alternate chemistry with a different mode of action is giving Willamette Valley growers another option for controlling slugs in wheat and other crops that need protection from mollusks.

According to current results of trials conducted by Oregon State University Extension Entomologist, Glenn Fisher, and WFS Agronomist Joe Cacka, First Choice® Sluggo® Snail and Slug Bait can provide the same level of control as Deadline Mini Pellets (MPs).

The study helps establish Sluggo as an effective alternative for controlling slugs and snails, points out WFS Westside Sales Manager, Don Welliver. He says early acceptance of the iron phosphate based material in the Willamette Valley has been encouraging as growers integrate it into control programs.

Mode of Action

Sluggo’s active ingredient, iron phosphate, is a compound that slugs and snails can’t tolerate. Formulated with attractants, it lures slugs and snails from hiding places and plants. Mollusks stop feeding immediately after ingesting small amounts, become less mobile and die within three to six days. The active ingredient has an extremely low mammalian toxicity (>5000 mg/kg) and can be used around domestic animals and wildlife.

Since it acts as a stomach poison, it doesn’t need sunlight to dehydrate slugs and snails after they feed on the pellets. Welliver notes that grower comments and observations suggest that “slugs do not always get a lethal dose of metaldehyde bait and can re-hydrate during extended wet weather.” Sluggo also resists weathering, allowing longer control if bait is exposed to rainfall or irrigation water.

Gray Garden Slug

In the trials OSU’s Fisher and Western Farm’s Cacka conducted...
Fall Banding Has Big Impact on Hazelnut Yields

On-going research by WFS Agronomist, Joe Cacka of Rickreall is providing more insight into using potassium to maximize hazelnut production. In the latest series of trials, banding in late fall produced a significant yield increase.

Fall-applied potassium chloride (KCL), for example, boosted yields by nearly 3/4 tons per acre compared to the grower’s standard program. The trials also included fall banded sulfate of potash (SOP), evaluations of K movement in soil and potassium levels in leaf tissues. The results show that growers can apply an economical potassium source and increase plant uptake under dry soil conditions, says Cacka.

“Band applications”, he reports, “have resulted in higher K2O levels deeper into the soil profile. This would allow for greater potassium uptake from roots in the lower soil profile when the upper soil zones may be drying out due to lack of rainfall during the summer months.”

The grower he worked with used a Wilmar applicator in late November of 2002 to apply a six to eight-inch band of potassium down the center of rows. The WFS agronomist compared yield data to the standard practice of broadcasting across the entire field earlier in the fall.

KCL Advantage

High rates of either KCL or SOP (nearly 1,500 pounds per acre) failed to increase yields compared to the grower’s standard program, notes Cacka. He believes high chloride and sulfate levels cancelled out the potential for increased production. However, a 475 pound rate of potassium chloride resulted in 1,490 more pounds of hazelnuts per acre, while 488 pounds of potash of sulfate produced a 396 pound increase.

Continuous Trend

The latest yield data are consistent with previous work that has shown a good response to supplemental potassium. As reported last year in Western Connection, 2002 trials with soil applied potassium in spring and foliar treatments in summer produced a good return on investment, ranging from $40.87 to $58.87 per acre.

Cacka’s research includes the use of precision ag technology to develop comprehensive management programs for hazelnuts. When the research is complete, it will provide an in-depth guide for making site-specific management decisions. Based on results to date, there’s solid evidence that improving potassium management has a good payoff and the potential for an excellent return on investment.

Getting Much More Than You Paid For!

Whoever coined the adage that “you get what you pay for” wasn’t familiar with The Ag Decision Network (ADN). Designed exclusively for WFS customers, the free service is a time and money saving tool. It offers a wealth of valuable information for budgeting and account management, plus added features such as labels, MSDS and much more.

Western Farm encourages growers to take advantage of the ADN and discover the benefits other WFS customers are getting from the free online service. The detailed account information that’s posted on the secure Web site prompted one ADN user to call it a “system of checks and balances” that’s especially valuable when time is at a premium.

ADN members access the Web site by logging onto www.westernfarmservice.com. A user name and password requirement keeps all account information strictly confidential. When it’s accessed, it provides a detailed listing of categories such as open and paid invoices and specific product purchases. A “detail button” lets ADN users review specific invoice information in all reports. The invoicing and purchasing program lets you quickly analyze trends and develop or update fertilizer and chemical budgets.

Continuous Updating

The wide range of information available on the ADN is continually updated to provide timely reports on all subjects. Links to many other Web sites, including weather, stock market, and commodity prices, makes the ADN a valuable, time-saving reference source.

For more details, log onto www.westernfarmservice.com for a “demo” and overview of the Ag Decision Network. Then, ask your WFS field representative to sign you up for the free service.

How Much Do Slugs/Slugs Eat?

In one night slugs/snails can eat as much as they weigh! A heavy infestation of 9 slugs/snails per sq. ft. (equivalent to 392,040 slugs/snails/acre) can eat 82 lbs. of crop per night or 1 ton/acre in 2 weeks. For best control treat at first signs of clear, slimy trails. Early spring is ideal since slugs/snails are hungry after they emerge.
Eastern Filbert Blight Spreads Throughout the Willamette Valley

Filbert growers in the southern Willamette Valley have had their worst fears confirmed. Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) has been identified in several Lane County filbert orchards. “The disease in the south end of the valley appears to have been there for many years,” says Oregon State University Plant Pathologist, Dr. Jay Pscheidt.

History
Washington County has had the disease for over 15 years. It first showed up in the Clark County area of Washington in the ’70s. “The growers that started on a spray program when the disease first started can sure tell the difference in the health of their orchards over the long term,” said Bruce Wendland, field representative for the WFS Cornelius branch.

The Area
The discovery of EFB throughout the Willamette Valley means that the entire 29,750 acres of filberts should be protected with cultural practices and a fungicide program beginning at bud break. “Our south valley growers are becoming more concerned about EFB, and because of the disease spreading to the south, we can’t bury our heads in the sand anymore”, says Josh Nelson, sales representative for WFS Tangent.

Cultural Practices
Growers need to scout orchards regularly for EFB cankers. If they’re found, the current recommendation is to prune them out 6” below the infection. Remove infected wood and burn or bury it to minimize spores in the orchard area. Also, remove wild filbert trees that can be infected or become infected. Begin replacing susceptible pollenizers with resistant pollenizers. Sucker control is important to limit the area of potential disease inoculum.

The Disease
EFB is spread by spores transported by wind and rain. It requires a 20 hour, continuous wetting period on the tree. It only infects the tree at the growing point. EFB goes through a 15 to 24 month latent period followed by small raised bumps on the bark. These bumps turn into black pustules that filbert growers have come to fear. The pustules give off new spores that continue to spread the infection.

Research
Research at OSU by Dr. Jay Pscheidt has shown that the most effective fungicide program is to spray at bud break and continue at two week intervals until new tree growth stops. This usually happens about the first of May. A combination of cultural practices and a chemical spray program is the best defense. “A strong fungicide program coupled with good fertility will affect the long term health of a nut orchard,” says Norm Klampe, sales manager of the WFS Hopmere branch. Greenhouse and field research in 2002/2003 show the need for a minimum of 3, and possible 4 sprays. “Our growers have done an excellent job of getting on a preventative fungicide program and Flint is a key component in our filbert spray program”, says Klampe.

Chemical Control
Studies have shown that there are several effective fungicides. All of them require thorough coverage of the canopy. Keep in mind that the disease infection occurs at the growing points of the tree. Currently, 3 effective materials are labeled for EFB in filberts—Bravo, Flint, and Pristine®. Bravo has had a federal label for many years and works only as a preventative with no systemic activity. As leaves develop or heavy rains occur, control may fall off due to its contact and preventative properties. Pristine has shown some activity on EFB, but lacks the years of testing needed to develop a spray program.

Tests with Flint have provided excellent control of EFB and the material has been tested for 4 seasons. Flint is a strobilurin chemistry that obtained a 2ee federal label in 2003. It has shown excellent preventative control and a solid 2 days of kickback activity. Flint has unique redistribution characteristics with “locked in” activity and has ranked at the top of EFB control trials the last 3 to 4 years. A unique mode of action provides plant tissue coverage and a long residual. The locked in activity of Flint also makes it rainfast within 2 hours, a plus for the rainy climate of the Willamette Valley. Locked in and kickback activity make Flint an excellent choice for bud break applications when leaves are slightly out, or as the primary material when leaves are expanding.

“My Flint usage will be up this year because it gives excellent disease control without any of the growth regulator effects of other materials”, says WFS field representative, Stan Hilton. “The excellent activity of Flint against EFB due to its locked in nature within the leaf and lack of growth regulator effects, will make Flint an integral part of the control strategy in 2004 with WFS,” he states.

Flint is a registered trademark of Bayer Corporation Crop Protection.
Bravo is a trademark of Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.
Pristine is a registered trademark of BASF Corporation.
A Salute to Bob Long

Continued from page 1

century technology. Under his leadership WFS became a service oriented company dedicated
to helping growers increase efficiency and return on investment through programs like
Precision Ag.

Keeping Busy

Although he’s retired, there are plenty of activities to keep Long busy. He and his wife,
Diana, a retired schoolteacher, have three children and four grandchildren. Their twin
daughters, Brenda and Cindy live in the Willamette Valley. Their son, Michael lives in Baker
City, Oregon. Long looks forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren.

He’ll also continue to devote time to his church and the Albany Boys and Girls Club where he
has been a board member since 1990. Long has been a board chairman and Deacon at the
North Albany Community Church. He is currently serving as chairman of the Missions Committee
and is a small group leader. In 1996 he also became a board member with Bridge Builders
International, which promotes partnerships between U.S. organizations and churches in the
Baltic States, especially Latvia. He has traveled to Latvia three times since 1995. When these
activities fail to keep him busy, there is always gardening and golf.

Western Farm Service extends its best wishes to Bob Long and salutes him for his
dedication and contributions to Willamette Valley agriculture.

New General Manager

At the beginning of this year Chuck Hornung became the new General Manager of the
Cascade Division, moving from California where he was Marketing Manager for Western
Farm’s Southwest Division. Like Long, Hornung grew up on a family farm and has a solid
agricultural background. The next Western Connection will feature Hornung’s experience and
plans to ensure that WFS will continue to offer growers the products, services and technology
needed to adapt to changes in agriculture.

Bulletin Board

NEW LABELS:
Orbit Fungicide has received a
Section 18 for use on Hazelnuts.
Spartan Herbicide received a
label for weed control in Mint.
Westar Herbicide received a
supplemental label for weed
control for Christmas Trees.

LABELS PENDING:
Osprey Herbicide is scheduled
to receive a label for use in
wheat this March.