



Armyworm control *Leucania convecta*

Agronomists have noticed armyworm infestations appearing in rice crops already this season. Crops often recover from early damage without chemical control.

Mark Stevens NSW DPI has found high levels of parasitism in armyworm, so spraying before damage thresholds are exceeded may disrupt parasitoid populations and lead to worse armyworm infestations later in the season. Spray as soon as damage thresholds are exceeded as smaller caterpillars are more readily controlled and re-infestation is rarely a problem. Armyworms often appear around the edges of a crop so it is worth walking through the bays to assess density and damage.

Pesticides for armyworm control

Pesticide	Rate per hectare
trichlorfon 500 g/L, e.g. Dipterex®, Lepidex®	1200 mL
maldison 440 g/L, Fyfanon®	1800 mL
maldison 500 g/L, Maldison	1600 mL
maldison 1169 g/L, Fyfanon ULV®	700 mL
chlorpyrifos 500 g/L, e.g. Lorsban®, Strike-out®	700 – 900 mL Use higher rate if caterpillars are more than 15 mm in length.

Chemical registrations listed here are NSW product registrations taken from the web edition of the Infopest® database (accessed 27 June 2016). This information should be used as a guide only – always read product labels to ensure that the proposed use conforms to a registered use pattern. Other commercial products may also be registered for particular uses. Interstate growers in particular should check labels to ensure that product registrations mentioned here are valid in their own state.

Abide by the correct withholding periods prior to harvest

This will ensure no chemical residues are present in the grain. Growers considering treating for armyworms within 20 days of harvest should consult their agronomist to ensure that the level of infestation justifies the cost of treatment.

The registered on-label withholding periods for maldison, trichlorfon and chlorpyrifos are one, 2 and 10 days respectively. It is suggested, however, that growers voluntarily observe the following minimum withholding periods in order to provide an even greater margin of safety:

Recommended withholding periods between treatment and harvest:

maldison,	8 days
trichlorfon	12 days
chlorpyrifos	25 days

BE AWARE:

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and SunRice recommend that growers do not use **alphacypermethrin** products for armyworm control in rice.

The synthetic pyrethroid alphacypermethrin (Dominex Duo[®], Astound Duo[®], and other trade names) is currently registered for armyworm control in rice **in drained crops only**, and has a 7-day withholding period prior to harvest. Application this close to harvest may result in residue contamination in grain.

No residues in drainage water:

Do not drain rice water into drains within 28 days of pesticide application.

Further information is available in the [NSW DPI Primefact Armyworms in rice](#) and in the [Rice Crop Protection Guide](#)