

Advise on Duponchelia problems.

Duponchelia is an especially tough problem; it is so difficult because the places where the caterpillar can be found are practically unreachable. With Duponchelia you cannot quickly say that you are out of trouble. It has become a domestic insect in northern Europe and populations must be carefully monitored. The following advice is based on a couple of topics, which all has to be followed as much as possible to control the pest.

1. Lamp-traps. The simple common lamp-trap is the best, no expensive types to buy. These give an essential indication of the butterfly moth, the winged stage of Duponchelia.
2. For the coming 4 weeks treatment with chemicals must be done towards the caterpillar AND the butterfly moth. This schedule is based on six days, which is normal for this time of the year. It is important to spray EVERY six days, not every seven. If spraying on the sixth day is undoable (ie Sunday) chemicals should be applied on the fifth day.
3. The caterpillar can be treated with Steward (working chemical Indoxacarb group). When you use Steward, you need to use a lot of fluid so the runoff reaches the bottom of the plant. The chemical treatment is actually much like a irrigation treatment. Steward is used 3x in the schedule, so every 6 days from the date of first application (Day 1, 7, 13). After that you need to change to a chemical from the Bacillus Thuringiensis group, for instance Thurex. This treatment is also applied 3x (Day 19, 25, 31).
4. For the butterfly moths an aerial treatment is necessary with Decis (working chemical Deltamethrin group), Decis is the only good working chemical for this. This treatment lies in between the Steward / Thurex treatments. (Day's 4, 10, 16...)
5. An extra suggestion is the use of Hypoaspis (nematodes) in the soil.

Schedule (for example):

Week 52-1	Steward
52-4	Decis
52-7	Steward
01-3	Decis
01-6	Steward
02-2	Decis
02-5	Thurex
03-5	Decis

etc.

Continue this schedule for four weeks and then check the results. The lamps can help with that. After that the schedule can be brought back to a once a week treatment (Wk 1 Decis, Wk 2 Steward, Wk 3 Decis ect...), changing to one week against the caterpillars, the other week against the butterflies.

This is a heavy schedule, I know that, but it is absolutely necessary in order to get Duponchelia in control, especially when the pressure is very high (summer).

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