



**DOVE**  
**ASSOCIATES**

**Horticultural Consultants**

Weggs Farm

Common Road

Dickleburgh, DISS

Norfolk IP21 4PJ

Tel: 01379 741200

Fax: 01379 741800

Email: [info@dovebugs.co.uk](mailto:info@dovebugs.co.uk)

[www.dovebugs.co.uk](http://www.dovebugs.co.uk)

## Information

### Pruning sealants 2015

#### Commercial product: Scaniavital Silica Paste from Biobest

This is primarily being marketed as a wound dressing (physical barrier) for protected tomatoes but there is definitely potential for use on other protected crops such as ornamentals. It is based on fine clay particles which can be easily spread over a pruning wound. As well as the clay, the paste contains silicon, potassium, calcium and a thickening agent. The paste dries quickly on plants under protection, which then prevents dehydration of the wounds. It must be noted that any spores that could be on pruning equipment or near the wound itself will not be destroyed because there are no fungicides present in the paste. As with all good nursery hygiene, make sure tools are kept clean and sharp to avoid increasing the surface area of the wound produced.

The low toxicity of the substances in the Silica Paste means that all members of staff are able to apply it. Check the label for personal protective equipment requirements. There are two pack sizes; one is a 1 litre bucket and the other is a bottle with a brush applicator. Make sure that the contents of the 1 litre bucket are stirred well prior to use. After application, ensure the lids on both containers are well secured to prevent the product drying out. Store between 5°C and 15°C. There are no restrictions to the number of times it can be used.

#### Retail product: Bio Arbrex Seal n' Heal

This is a dark brown/grey emulsion, which is made up of natural waxes, resin and various plant oils. It can be applied in temperatures down to -5°C. This has a similar effect to the Silica Paste in that it acts as a physical barrier to disease. There are no restrictions to the number of times it can be used.

#### BlocCade

BlocCade is a physical coating for protecting plant wounds against infection caused by bacteria and fungi such as *Eutypa*, *Botryosphaeria* and *Nectria* (e.g. fruit tree canker and dead arm disease). BlocCade must be applied directly to the plant wound. BlocCade is most effective when applied immediately after pruning. Shake well before use. Mix one part of BlocCade to nine parts water. Apply immediately after pruning to the wound and the area around it ensuring that the entire wound is covered. This results in an air tight shield that protects the plant from infection. BlocCade dries in 5 to 45 minutes. Apply in dry frost free weather. BlocCade can be applied with a knapsack sprayer, orchard sprayer, a sprayer device on the 'Felco-19' pruning shear and by brush. If applied by spraying use a fine spray nozzle and ensure thorough coverage. For optimum results when spraying use a non-ionic surfactant. Diluted this product has a limited shelf life of 24 hours. Clean application equipment by rinsing with water. Dried product can be removed with a solvent such as nail polish remover.

**Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use**

Dove Associates shall in no event be liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of products mentioned in this document

© Dove Associates 29/10/15