

Mitigate against the risk of botrytis

Damien Harris is a consultant viticulturalist with 27 years of experience in the industry.

Based in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia, Harris looks after clients throughout that region and the Clare Valley. Over his years in the industry, he has seen a range of fungicides come and go and is aware of the ever-evolving nature of botryticides,

During the dry seasons, prior to 2021, Harris says, "we were able to recommend a rotation of older botryticides knowing that the pressure would be manageable, but when the 2020 season came around we had to plan differently".

"I had clients with high value, high risk varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir," he explained. "I was looking for something that would fit into a botrytis management program and meet the demands of the high-pressure

season ahead."

Harris turned to Prolectus* from Sumitomo.

"I included Prolectus for a number of reasons. I liked that it was Group 17, as it fitted with our resistance management program, and the fact that it has translaminar activity meant that it could make its way through the leaf to protect the underside; this was important when dealing with a relatively dense canopy.

"I also liked that it can be applied out to EL-29 and had powerful kickback activity given the strong potential for an outbreak.

"It also has good rain fastness which was another factor in its favour given the season.

Harris said that while Prolectus is certainly not the cheapest on the market, he felt it important to convince his clients

that it was a worthwhile investment to mitigate against the risk of botrytis which could have a potentially huge economic impact.

"I knew that by recommending Prolectus as part of a botrytis prevention program that I could go home and sleep at night knowing that I had done the best for my clients.

At harvest, Harris' call proved to be right, with his clients harvesting 20 tonne per hectare of high quality, high value grapes.

Prolectus* is a fenpyrazamine based fungicide, discovered and developed by Sumitomo Chemical Ltd and is registered for botrytis control in winegrapes.



Damien Harris