



EDN™ Handasyde Strawberries



Handasyde Strawberries is a family-owned organic and conventional farm located near the West Australian township of Albany, a rich agricultural and wine-producing area. The farm specialises in strawberries but is increasingly diversifying into other crops.

Lyn and Neil Handasyde are highly regarded strawberry producers in Australia, renowned for their innovative and environmentally conscious farming practices. Operating a parallel farming system, the owners have been gradually converting sections to organic.

Strawberry fruits are grown all year round in Australia with Victoria contributing 36%, Queensland 42% and Western Australia 11% to the national total. Soils used for strawberry production are mostly fumigated and covered with plastic prior to planting to control soil-borne pathogens, nematodes and weeds.

Methyl bromide was used in strawberry production up until 2000 to control these soil-borne pests, diseases and weeds, but since it's been phased out, there's been no reliable alternative on the market.

Methyl bromide is considered an ozone-depleting compound. International restrictions have been placed on its usage and the product is being phased out around the world, including Australia.

"Up until now, Australian growers have had limited alternatives to methyl bromide," says Neil.

Despite its environmental impacts, the use of methyl bromide in the past for soil disinfestation had been effective at preventing yield loss. In fact, experts estimate that it has prevented approximately 35% of yield loss for Australian growers, equating to approximately \$40 million annually.

The main challenge for growers such as Lyn and Neil Handasyde and the Australian strawberry industry as a whole is to find an alternative to methyl bromide that can match its yield performance.

"The industry has waited a long time for an alternative product to methyl bromide and now that it's finally here, I predict a strong uptake among growers and farmers," concludes Neil.

The Draslovka Group has now delivered the first global and long-awaited industry solution, with the introduction of EDN™. Set to transform the Australian agricultural sector, this newly approved, ozone friendly, broad-spectrum soil fumigant will help Aussie farmers treat soil and control soil-borne diseases, nematodes and weeds.

“Looking beyond efficiency gains, one of the biggest benefits of EDN™ is that it aligns nicely with our growing emphasis on responsible farming. EDN™ is considerably more environmentally-friendly than methyl bromide – it is made up of naturally occurring active ingredients that degrade to earth-friendly metabolites. It’s not an ozone-depleting product and is about as clean as a chemical can be and has no known global warming potential,” he adds.

The Australian strawberry industry and The Draslovka Group have been working together on trials with EDN™ for a number of years throughout the registration phase of the product. The product is now officially available in the Australian market, and Neil and his team at the Handasyde Strawberries farm are using the fumigant under full registration for the first time.

“Our farm has participated in more than six years of testing for EDN™, resulting in year-on-year improvements, so we are very confident it will have a positive impact on our commercial yield,” explains Neil.

According to Neil, alongside the product’s reduced environmental impact, a key benefit is faster plant back times. Using EDN™ means strawberries can be planted quicker, reducing the typical 28-day replant times of soil fungicides and nematicides to just 15

days, considerably quicker than the competitor, Telone®, which can take anything up to 2-3 months in plant back time.

“Getting our plants in the ground earlier means we can get in production earlier,” says Neil.

This makes for a more efficient process and potential savings due to reduced labour costs for weeding. The Handasydes believe these types of savings could easily flow on to other growers through the use of EDN™. Having seen the benefits of EDN™ through his work as a WA strawberry grower, Neil joined the Draslovka Group in Canberra to lobby for the product’s approval with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

“This new product has proved its merits having already undergone years of testing, and I’m confident EDN™ will have a significant impact on the Australian agricultural, horticultural and ornamental grower sectors.”



Benefits of EDN™ at a glance:

- Effective in controlling soil-borne pathogens, nematodes and weeds
- Can be applied to the soil when the soil temperature is below 10°C
- Shortens post-treatment plant-back time for strawberry runners to just 15 days, which is less than currently available fumigants
- Promotes the growth of beneficial microorganisms found in the soil that induce increased growth response in plants
- Healthier strawberry plants and higher yields
- No known global warming potential
- Strong environmental performance – with naturally occurring active ingredients

Draslovka Services Group

Established in 2015, the Draslovka Services Group is a group of companies tasked with providing global trial support, application and product development consulting, as well as registration and business development support for suppliers, distributors, and customers. The Draslovka Services Group HQ is strategically based in Melbourne, Australia to ensure real time support – and in conjunction with consolidated entities can provide 24-hour global coverage for the support of the entire Draslovka product portfolio. The Draslovka Services Group directly fills a gap in industry between the manufacturer and the end-user, enabling a direct link to ensure seamless custom application development and commercial support.

Draslovka Services Group

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