

NA13

Adjuvants



Use

To improve adhesion, deposition and penetration of the spray solution on the leaf surface. NA13 is particularly useful when the target is small, waxy, or the canopy is dense.

Crops

All horticultural crops.

Pack Size

1 litre

Function of NA13

Foliar nutrients are widely used in agriculture and horticulture for correcting deficiencies and supplying regular doses of key elements to aid crop development and improve harvest quality. Although foliar nutrition can be a more precisely targeted method of delivering the crop's requirements than bulk fertilisers applied to soil, it can be a challenge to achieve rapid uptake through the leaf surfaces.

The main methods of entry are through the stomata (mainly on the undersides of leaves in most plant species) or through the waxy cuticle on the upper leaf surfaces. Environmental conditions at the time of application favouring stomatal opening help with uptake through this route, and applications should be made if possible during periods of high humidity, and not at times of high sunlight or heat intensity.

Studies by leading foliar nutrition experts such as Victoria Fernandez (Technical University of Madrid)¹ and Tom Eichert (Bonn University)² have shown that absorption through the wider leaf surfaces is greatly helped by wetting the whole surface rather than depositing large droplets, and by extending the drying time (humectancy) of the spray droplets, as nutrients move more easily through the cuticle when in solution.

Unfortunately, the typical soluble salt formulations used in most foliar nutrients have poor wetting and spreading characteristics, little better than water in many cases. Including appropriate adjuvants in the formulations themselves presents difficulties with compatibility, and is difficult to get right since these materials are used at a wide range of rates and water volumes.

A better approach is to add a purpose-made adjuvant to the final spray solution. Tests at the OMEX research facility have shown major improvements in leaf wetting by the addition of NA13 to a wide range of commonly used products.

Product	Rate/ha (200L/ha water)	Leaf Wetting Score* applied alone	Leaf Wetting Score* with NA13 added at 0.1%
Water	N/A	0.37 - 0.50	N/A
Folex Zn	1L	0.43	2.58
Folex Cu	2L	0.72	2.97

Leaf wetting assessed (OMEX Trial Ref: 2014/51) using methods described by Fernandez et al. (2006)

Directions for Use

Use NA13 with the products listed in the table below if the nutrient would otherwise be used alone or in tank mix with another nutrient. If the nutrient is being tank mixed with pesticides then it is not necessary to include NA13, although inclusion will improve uptake of all products in the mix. Avoid using NA13 in tank mixes with selective herbicides.

Use 0.1% dilution with foliar nutrients in a minimum of 200 L/ha water.

The spray tank should be filled with half the required water. Add the required amount of NA13 to the water before adding any nutrients, maintain constant agitation. Add remaining water to correct dilution and spray.

Product Group	Timing/best use	Rate % of Total Volume	Comments
Biostimulants & Quality Improvement Specialities	While crop is actively growing Early morning, evening, high humidity	0.1	Use with DP98. Use with Vitomex if the target is small or if the canopy is dense
Foliar Nutrition - Specialities	Early morning, evening, high humidity	0.1	Use with Bio 18 and Bio 20 if the target is small
Foliar Nutrition	Early morning, evening, high humidity	0.1	Use with Folex B, Folex Cu, Folex K, Folex Mg, Folex P, Folex Zn and Manganese 17.5

Notes

¹ See Foliar Fertilization, Scientific Principles and Field Practices, V. Fernández, T. Sotiropoulos and P. Brown, published by the International Fertilizer Industry Association, 2013. Available on line at www.fertilizer.org

² See Uptake and Release of Elements by Leaves and Other Aerial Plant Parts, by T. Eichert and V. Fernández, Chapter 4 of Mineral Nutrition of Higher Plants, Ed. P. Marschner, 3rd Ed. 2012.

Do not apply in tank mix with pesticides when crop is showing deficiency symptoms, is under stress, or in adverse weather conditions.