

# PO Post Opening Tracking Sheet

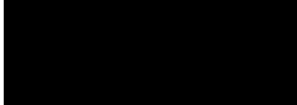
Barcode Number

  
\*PO219\*

Date Post Opened

11 FEB 2016

Allocated to -



## Handling Instructions

Level of urgency (Please circle) -

HIGH

MEDIUM

LOW

Type of Case -

PO

POCon

Invitation

Handle As -

Bespoke

Routine

Standard

Factsheet

Minister signing Please circle -

TRUSS

EUSTICE

GARDINER

STEWART

Lead Policy Area

(Division and policy contact, if applicable) -

Subject Line

To be entered into Contact

THIAMETHOXAM as treatment  
for Cancer -  
- Act - Policy.

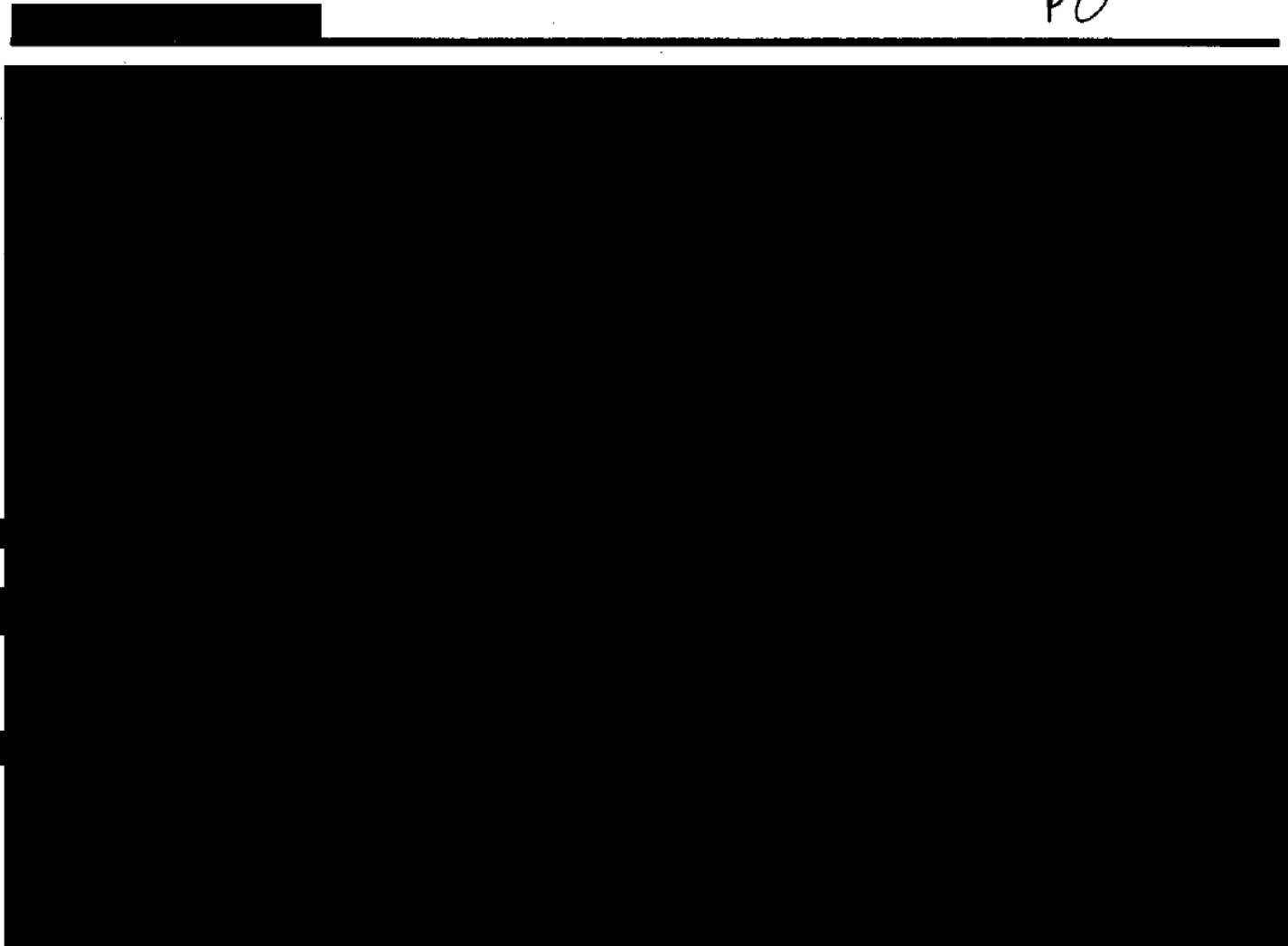
Handling Instructions

For Drafter

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George Eustice MP  
Minister of State  
Defra  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Your ref:  
Our ref: GS/gt/0781  
Email: [redacted]@nfu.org.uk  
Direct line: [redacted]  
Date: 08 February 2016

Dear Minister

**Emergency Approval for the use of Cruiser (thiamethoxam) on outdoor carrot**

I am writing to inform you of a very recent application for an emergency extension of use, which has been submitted to CRD for evaluation by Mutual Recognition Procedure by [redacted] of AHDB at the request of members of British Carrot Growers' Association.

I would urge you to support the application for an EAMU for the use of thiamethoxam as Cruiser as a seed treatment upon carrot.

The carrot crop is Britain's major root vegetable, with over 700,000 tonnes of carrots grown each year from 11,000 hectares by 200 farmers. Each year, 22 billion carrot seeds are sown in Britain, producing around 100 carrots per year for every member of the population. **The sales value of British carrots is around £290 million.**

Carrots are affected by a number of viruses which are transmitted through many aphid vectors. The standard aphid control programmes in carrot involve the use of pirimicarb, thiacloprid and pyrethroid insecticides, as foliar applications. However the recent discovery that the peach potato aphid can transmit carrot viruses could cause control programmes to be extended further into the season. Also the known resistance of *Myzus persicae* to pirimicarb and pyrethroids will make these insecticides ineffective.

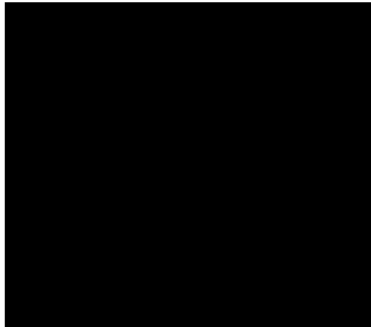
The use of Cruiser seed treatment reduces the need for foliar sprays and targets the insecticide to insects feeding on the carrot foliage. It is therefore a much more focused solution than foliar sprays and can give protection for up to six weeks after sowing. Carrots are a biennial plant and as such they do not flower in their first year so are not an attractive crop to bees.

The use of thiamethoxam as a seed treatment on carrots is approved in other member states. This year, UK supermarkets are struggling to put British carrots on their shelves as there is a shortage of home produced carrots. This was caused by high aphid numbers last year and limited access to this seed treatment. Some seed was sourced from Belgium and Germany as other member states do have access to thiamethoxam as a seed treatment for carrots, so British supermarkets are sourcing Dutch carrots instead of British because the Dutch have access to this chemistry. Surely we cannot allow this competitive disadvantage to continue?

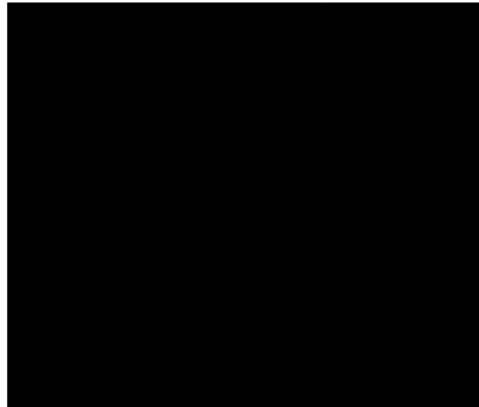
I am aware of the political pressures relating to use of neonicotinoid seed treatments, and that ministerial approval will be required, and hence I have been asked to write to you to stress the importance of this issue.

This authorisation is therefore urgently required, and I trust you can help UK producers. Please note, carrot is not classed as a flowering crop.

Yours sincerely



**National Farmers' Union**



**Carrot Grower and Chair of Horticulture Board,  
National Farmers' Union**