

# Using IrriGate® for improving irrigation infiltration and efficiency in LUCERNE

## Key Points about IrriGate

- Can improve irrigation efficiency by up to 30% and reduce leaching
- Is very cost effective with most applications to lucerne being from \$ 20.00 to \$40.00/ha
- Improves penetration and infiltration of water into difficult to wet or capped soils
- Is not phytotoxic to plant material and therefore will not harm plants even if applied directly onto leaf surfaces
- Is a non-ionic formulation and therefore will not cause corrosion to equipment and fittings
- Can be applied in conjunction with Gypsum and other crop management products

## The Product

IrriGate is not a PAM. It is a non-ionic, liquid blend of co-polymers which mixes easily with all types of irrigation water. As IrriGate is derived from a new field of surfactant technology, it allows growers to use a highly effective soil surfactant at an affordable price. It is available in 20L, 200L and 1000L litre plastic drums.

## What does IrriGate do?

IrriGate is a specialised soil surfactant. It enables growers to improve the infiltration and penetration of water in certain hydrophobic soils and improve the lateral movement of water to more effectively cover the plants root zone. IrriGate also reduces water loss due to run-off and evaporation, improving the efficiency of irrigation by up to 30%.

## Mode of Action

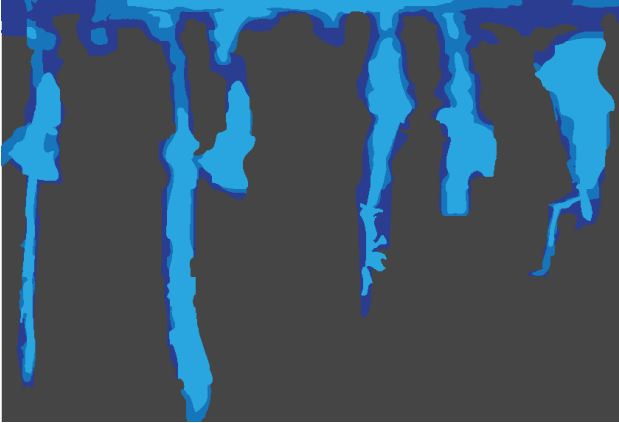
The polymers in IrriGate enable the water molecule to adhere to hydrophobic soil particles and therefore enhance their capacity to absorb water (see Fig 1). This action then creates a more uniform wetting of the root zone and allows moisture to move more freely throughout the soil profile.

## Applying IrriGate in Lucerne

IrriGate is normally applied with the irrigation water through either center pivot or lateral irrigators. Maximum benefit is obtained when applied soon after a cut however the product will not adhere to the leaves so applications at later stages will still be effective. IrriGate may be applied by a boom spray with between 200 and 400 litres of water per hectare, after which irrigation should occur within 24 to 36 hours.



# IrriGate reduces ponding & channeling so that more water is kept within the root zone



**Untreated Soil - water is ponding, then channeling, causing wastage of water and nutrients.**



**IrriGate treatment - water distribution is uniform and more efficient.**

## Directions for Use

Situation	Rate	Critical Comments
Injection through irrigation systems	2.5 - 10 Litres / ha	Inject IrriGate through any type of irrigation system (except earthen irrigation channels).  For Lucerne crops an initial application of 5 litres/ha after cutting is usually sufficient.  A second application of 2.5 litres/ha can be made as needed.
Conventional sprayers Boom application	2.5 - 10 Litres / ha	Irrigation or rainfall should follow application. Apply in 200-400 L of water per hectare.



Always read the entire label prior to use.  
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