





European Regional Development Fund

Plans transnationaux pour la gestion des risques forestiers



PLURIFOR Emerging Pests and Diseases Workshop - Task 2.2

An experience of control of fungal diseases in a *Pinus radiata* stand in Gipuzkoa, Basque Country

25th January 2018, INIAV - Oeiras, Portugal

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Example of emerging disease in the Basque Country: "cryptogamic red"

It is a set of defoliator fungi, present for many years in our forests

Lecanosticta acicola, Dothistroma, Pestalotia, Naemacyclus, ... are pathogens causing foliage diseases of conifers, especially *P. radiata* and *P.nigra*

In recent years, for unknown reasons, the damage has spread

This disease does not usually kill the pines, but it causes their defoliation, it weakens the pines and their growth is very low; Many forest owners end up cutting the pine forest and replacing it with other species

Each spring, new needles are formed and, when infected, they fall during the summer, especially if it is warm and rainy







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Example of emerging disease in the Basque Country: "cryptogamic red"

Traditional solution: copper products, so that the needles become resistant

Bordeaux mixture (Bordo Mix) is a mixture of copper(II) sulfate (CuSO4) and slaked lime (Ca(OH)2) used as a fungicide. It is used in vineyards, fruit-farms and gardens to prevent infestations of downy mildew, powdery mildew and other fungi. It is sprayed on plants as a preventive solution

Copper is a classical phytosanitary in agriculture and it was the first effective pesticide. It protects crops from certain fungi, and is one of the few products (along with sulfur) of authorized mineral origin in organic farming. It should be noted that it is the only authorized bactericide in the European Union.

But in Spain there is no authorized copper product for forestry applications

cuprosan/G

BAYER

COMPOSICIÓN: cobre (axictoruro de cobre 50% p/p (500 g/kg))

1 kg contenido reto

Fungicida y bactericida preventivo

Granulado dispersable en agua (WG)

Antes de utilizar el producto, léase detenidamente la eliques. Uso reservado a agricultores y aplicadores profesionales.

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Experience proposed by Gipuzkoa Provincial Government, Forest Owner Association and HAZI

300 ha forest of P. radiata, located in the center of Gipuzkoa, 20 years old and affected for 10 years

Typical solutions have not worked: pruning, clearing, fertilisation

The possibility of testing new control systems in small areas of the forest is raised in the summer of 2017







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Experience proposed by Gipuzkoa Provincial Government, Forest Owner Association and HAZI

Two copper application systems are tested in June 2017:

- 1.- endotherapy in various trees
- 2.- application of sprayed product by truck and hose on a small forest surface

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1st Experience: endotherapy

It is used Cuprosan and Bordeaux mixture

The doses are applied depending on the perimeter of the tree: One for every 30 cm. The amount applied per dose is 10 cc in the case of Cuprosan and 15 cc in the case of Bordeaux mixture. The application is simpler with Bordeaux mixture, because Cuprosan seems to precipitate more easily.

Various locations:

Plot 1.- 6 trees in Pinus radiata stand, planted in 1994 (dense pine forest)
Plot 2.- 2 trees in Pinus radiata stand, planted in 1992 (bad pine forest)
Plot 3.- 6 trees in Pinus radiata stand, planted in 1995 (bad pine forest)
Plot 4.- 6 trees in Pinus laricio stand, planted in 1993 (good development)
Plot 5.- 9 trees in Douglas fir stand, planted in 1992 (good development)

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2nd Experience: application from truck

It is used Bordeaux mixture: 24 kg in two tanks with 1.000 liters of water each one

The ULV mean dose has been 1 l/m on each side of the road along 1 km of P. radiata stand. More or less, the product reaches 20-25 m from the truck. 5,5 kg/ha of Bordeaux mixture = 450 l/ha of application

Several problems: 1) with a little rainy weather and 2) with the form of application: speed of advance of the truck, width of the nozzle, ...







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First results of experience: chemical analysis

During November 2017, collection of needles in the low branches of 24 pines is done: 8 in the endotherapy zone and 16 in the area treated with truck

Area	mg/kg of Cu in treated pines	mg/kg of Cu in no-treated pines
Endotherapy	51	32
Treated with truck	45	<2,5





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First results of experience: NDVI analysis by dron

During December 2017, a part of the area treated with truck was flied by dron and IR image

The pines treated from the road show better photosynthetic activity (higher NDVI index) than the untreated pines





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And now what?

We want to continue in 2018 the evaluation in the areas already treated

We want to repeat and extend the experience of the Bordeaux mixture in other affected forests of Gipuzkoa from next spring. Endotherapy is very expensive

Will it be possible to get the authorization of a product and a dose of forest application of copper products? Is there another solution?

We all work together in the quantification of defoliation (visual inventory by Forest Administration or by Forest Owner Associations, recent LiDAR flight by Healthy Forest LIFE project) and in the search for solutions



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Thank you for your attention We keep working...