

Pest Alert

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UPDATE ON REGISTRATIONS IN COLORADO

Several Section 24(c) Special Local Needs (SLN) registrations have been issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section since the beginning of the year.

SLN CO-990001 – Balance (isoxaflutole) - a corn herbicide from Rhone-Poulenc (expires 3/21/2000)

SLN CO-990002 – Dual Magnum (s-Metolachlor) - a dry bulb onion herbicide from Novartis

SLN CO-990003 – Maxim MZ (fludioxinil + maneb) - a potato seed treatment for canker, scurf, dry rot from Novartis (expires 3/31/2000)

SLN CO-990004 – MZ-Curzate (mancozeb + cymoxanil) - a potato seed treatment for

late blight from Gustafson (expires 3/31/2000)

SLN CO-990005 – Epic DF (flufenacet and isoxaflutole) - a corn herbicide from Bayer (expires 3/21/2000)

SLN CO-990006 – Ridomil Gold EC (ridomil) - a fungicide to control pink rot and pythium leak in potatoes from Novartis

An applicator must have the 24(c) Supplemental Label in their possession to apply SLN products. Balance, Epic, MZ-Curzate, and Maxim MZ can be sold in Colorado only with their attached SLN supplemental labels. (McDonald)

AN FQPA UPDATE: ARE WE STILL ON TRAC???

The Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) Risk Mitigation and Risk Management Issues Workgroup met

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.
Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

recently. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing two risk assessments - the dietary assessment for azinphos-methyl (Guthion) and the complete risk assessment for bensulide (Prefar). USDA gave a presentation identifying the elements of a transition. There was also an update given on where organophosphates are in the risk assessment release process and where the science policies are in the notice and comment process.

STATUS REVIEW OF OP'S IN THE FQPA PILOT PROCESS

Pre-Phase 1: Preliminary risk assessments are under development for chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) chlorpyrifos-methyl, coumaphos, diazinon, dicrotophos (Bidrin), fenitrothion, malathion, mevinphos, phosalone, and trichlorfen (Dylox).

Phase 1: Registrant has 30 days for error correction. None are in this phase.

Phase 2: EPA is responding to error corrections from registrant for dichlorvos (DDVP) and phostebupirim.

Phase 3: Preliminary risk assessment released for a 60-day public comment period. None are in this phase.

Phase 4: EPA is responding to public comments and developing revised risk assessments for acephate (Orthene), azinphos-methyl (Guthion), bensulide (Prefar), cadusafos, chlorethoxyfos (Fortress), dimethoate, disulfoton (Di-syston), ethion, ethoprop (Mocap), ethyl parathion, fenamiphos (Nemacur), fenthion, methamidophos (Monitor), methidathion (Supracide), methyl-parathion (Pennacp-M), naled (Dibrom), oxydemeton-methyl (MSR), phorate (Thimet), phosmet (Imidan), pirimiphos-methyl (Silosan), profenofos (Curacron), propetamphos, sulfotepp, Temephos (Abate), tetrachlorvinphos, terbufos (Counter), and terbufos (DEF).

It is in Phase 4 that the refined risk assessments go to USDA. USDA has

received 9 of the above products and has returned 4 to EPA with comments. USDA is using the land grant universities (including CSU) to provide comments on the refined risk assessments focusing primarily on: impact or importance of the uses, use patterns, exposure scenarios and alternatives. Within USDA others are looking at the residue and consumption data USDA has, whether or not it was used, and how it was used. Obviously, the products with more uses take longer.

Phase 5: EPA will release the revised risk assessment for a 60-day comment period. No products are in this phase yet.

Phase 6: EPA Develops Draft Risk Management Strategies based on the risk assessment and comments received in Phase 5. No products in this phase. (McDonald)

TURF USES, NOT AG USES OF CONCERN IN BENSULIDE RISK ASSESSMENT

Bensulide (Prefar) is one of the 1st products to have completed its 60-day comment period and a USDA review. The EPA will very likely release the refined risk assessment soon. Bensulide has no dietary issues even when EPA used tolerance level residues and 100% crop treated figures, the % of Rfd used is only 6.7%. The concerns the EPA has regarding bensulide relate to its turf uses, not to its ag uses. The registrant is submitting three studies addressing these concerns to EPA. Residential and worker exposure issues are really going to be critical in these risk assessments and we need accurate data. (McDonald)

EPA PROPOSES TO REVOKE RESIDUE LIMITS FOR PREVIOUSLY CANCELED PESTICIDE USES

EPA is proposing to revoke more than 200 tolerances (pesticide residue limits) established previously for pesticides used on a variety of food products. Fifteen active ingredients are associated with this

proposal, which follows-up earlier actions on canceled pesticides or uses. The review of these tolerances is part of the tolerance reassessment process that EPA is conducting under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). EPA has reassessed more than 2,300 tolerances of the approximately 3,200 needed to meet the August 1999 goal of reassessing 33% of tolerances existing when FQPA was enacted. EPA is providing pesticide manufacturers, growers and other potentially affected groups a 60-day comment period. You may obtain copies of the proposed rule from:
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST>.
(McDonald)

EPA SEEKS COMMENT ON TWO SCIENCE POLICIES PAPERS

EPA released for public comment two science policy papers explaining their rationale for use of the 99.9th percentile as a standard for regulation in acute dietary (food) risk assessment and the data for refining dietary risk assessment. The Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) identified both policy issues as crucial to carrying out tolerance reassessment under FQPA. The comment period closes on June 7, 1999.

The paper, "Choosing a Percentile of Acute Dietary Exposure as a Threshold of Regulatory Concern", provides an overview of EPA's current approach and rationale for using the 99.9th percentile as a standard for regulation in acute dietary (food) risk assessment. It also addresses the issue of protectiveness of the 99.9th percentile with respect to public health, discusses plans for collaboration between USDA and EPA in analysis of the DEEM software and the 99.9th percentile issue, and lists questions and issues on which EPA would like commenters to focus. An appendix to the paper provides a "plain English" guide to the Monte Carlo analysis and how to interpret the results. This policy has broad applicability to the reassessment of many pesticides. You may obtain copies of this

document and other supporting documents from: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST>.

In reassessing tolerances under FQPA, EPA anticipates the need to refine dietary exposure assessments to develop more realistic estimates of the actual residues on food as EPA continues through the aggregate and particularly the cumulative assessment of pesticides which have a similar toxic effect via a common mechanism of toxicity. Having more realistic estimates of residues ultimately improves EPA's ability to make informed regulatory decisions that fully protect public health and sensitive subpopulations, including infants and children. The paper, "Data for Refining Anticipated Residue Estimate Used in Dietary Risk Assessments for Organophosphate Pesticides," describes the types of data that can be used to refine residue estimates, outlines the basic characteristics of useful data, discusses how residue data and usage data are linked, explains how EPA will use these types of data in its dietary exposure assessments, and describes when data may be most useful to EPA. The paper lists several questions on which EPA particularly would like to receive comments and mentions related guidance documents that they are developing. The paper is available at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/>.
(McDonald)

GERBER'S RESIDUE STANDARDS

Gerber has announced that they have set the standard that they will have no detectable residues (1ppb) in their products. Gerber growers cannot use any pesticide that cannot be used in such a way to ensure that there are no detectable residues.
(McDonald)

ALACHLOR RED

A Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) released by EPA in March said that alachlor's registrant, Monsanto, voluntarily agreed to classify alachlor as a restricted use pesticide (RUP) "because of

groundwater concerns." Currently all alachlor labels contain the following statement "RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE due to oncogenicity." This restriction is no longer required. EPA is seeking comments on the RED by May 10. The RED discusses additional label changes in the RED. You can download the RED document and fact sheet for alachlor from: www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs.

EPA has determined that the registrant may distribute or sell alachlor products bearing the old labels\labeling for 26 from the issuance of the RED. Persons other than the registrant may distribute or sell such products for 50 months. (McDonald)

PETITION TO ADD BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

The Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has received a petition to list the black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) throughout its range in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, southern Saskatchewan, Canada, and northern Mexico. The petition presents substantial scientific and commercial information that the request for listing may be warranted. Therefore, a status review to decide if the petitioned action is warranted has been initiated. To ensure that the review is comprehensive, information and data are being solicited. The US Fish and Wildlife Service will use information received during the comment period for this status review in their evaluation of the black-tailed prairie dog. To have information considered in the status review and subsequent 12-month finding for the petition, submit information to them by May 24, 1999. Data, information, technical critiques, comments, or questions about this finding should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5408. You may inspect the petition,

finding, and supporting documents, by appointment, at the above address. You may request and receive electronic copies of the petition and finding via e-mail from r6fwe_pie@fws.gov. For further information contact: Pete Gober, at the address given above, or telephone (605) 224-8693. (McDonald)

COOLEY SPRUCE GALL ADELGID

Cooley spruce gall adelgid produces the most conspicuous and commonly observed gall on woody plants, a cone-like distortion of the terminal. It also has been in above average numbers for several years and has attracted a lot of attention and concern. Personally, I think that trees rarely benefit from treatment for this insect and it certainly is not seriously threatening to tree health. However, it is a conspicuous distortion and many people wish to control this insect because of esthetic reasons. Fortunately the Cooley spruce gall adelgid is fairly easy to control, although there apparently is some confusion on control issues for it.

The life cycle of the insect is a bit unusual among the various gall making "bugs" in that the overwintering form of the Cooley spruce gall adelgid remains exposed on the plant from fall through bud break. (Most other gall makers overwinter in the old galls or migrate from the plant during winter.) This makes the "treatment window" extremely broad. Sprays applied last fall would work, as they would if applied now. Control starts to break down as the overwintered females begin to swell with eggs, a process that is just now beginning in some of the warmer areas of the state. From a single female, smaller than a pinhead during the dormant season, hundreds of eggs may be produced that hatch in synchrony with bud break.

Therefore, the timing strategy is different from most gall makers, which are best managed during the egg hatch period. Instead, Cooley spruce gall adelgid is best managed *before* eggs are produced. Sprays should be applied to the areas

where the insects overwinter, which is the underside of twigs, within the terminal 12 inches, predominantly on more shaded aspects (north, east sides). Sevin has long been the standard for control of this insect. I have found permethrin (Astro) and horticultural oils also to be highly effective. Dursban also can be effective but I have heard of control problems with other organophosphates, such as Orthene.

One interesting thing I have observed during the past year was that the effect of a soil injected application of Merit. Last year I put it down in late March and on treated trees there was about 50% reduction in gall production. However, when opening the galls in late June all of those on Merit-treated trees did not have living insects within the gall; apparently they were active long enough to induce the gall but subsequently were killed. These galls remain green to this day. It will be interesting to see how they further develop, but they definitely are not the conspicuous light brown color of the infested terminals that subsequently die and dry out in early summer. (Cranshaw)

SOME TURFGRASS MITE NOTES

The generally dry winter and spring conditions have brought on the predictable problems with spider mites on turfgrass (e.g., clover mites, Banks grass mite, brown wheat mite, winter grain mite) further aggravating winter desiccation damage. Also, clover mites can be important early season problems as nuisance invaders, moving into buildings during warm days in spring. Turfgrass mites are amply discussed in several Extension publications. However, there are a few things that I think should be addressed that perhaps are not widely recognized.

First, there is a difference in what is an effective pesticide for control of clover mites versus Banks grass mite. Organophosphates [e.g., diazinon, Dursban (chlorpyrifos)] appear to be superior for

clover mites; Talstar is a particularly good product for Banks grass mite.

Also, following up on suggestions by Master Gardeners, we (read Karen Kramer) have confirmed that certain types of dusts, applied as a film around windows and other entry points, are highly effective at killing migrating clover mites that attempt to move through them. Diatomaceous earth and baby powder appear to be able to provide effective clover mite barriers; the jury on baking powder is still out. (Cranshaw)

1999 VEGNET – TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Get the latest information on weather patterns, vegetable plant development and vegetable pest alerts that can affect your crop and productivity in Colorado and surrounding region. Colorado State University is pleased to announce that the popular VegNet program will be available as a resource for crop consultants, extension personnel, vegetable producers and others involved with the vegetable industry again during 1999. The program will be supported in part by the Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station & Cooperative Extension, Colorado Dry Bean Administrative Committee, Nebraska Dry Bean Commission, Colorado Onion Association, Arkansas Valley Growers & Shippers Association, Colorado Potato Administrative Area III Committee, Novartis Crop Protection, BASF, Elf Atochem NA, Agtrol International, Rohm & Haas, Zeneca Ag Products, American Cyanamid and Wilfarms.

The 1999 VegNet program and information on dry bean, onion, and potato will be available in 4 formats for easy access:

1. Web Site at <http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/VegNet/>
2. DTN Satellite at 800-485-4000 to subscribe, activate the Colorado Information Section

3. Telephone at 970-491-4278, follow menu options for 45 second message 4. Fax Back at 970-491-4278, follow menu options for printed report (via fax to fax).

The success and utility of the VegNet program is directly dependent upon your input, especially with reports regarding crop development, sightings of pests, or damage from storms. Your report will be handled confidentially, and descriptions of affected areas will not include specific field locations or grower names. The purpose is to share information on trends and especially early alerts so that others in the vicinity can scout their fields to decide if a production or pest management strategy should be implemented on a more timely basis.

Please share sightings or other concerns with Howard Schwartz at CSU. Our program personnel will be involved with periodic surveys and research plots throughout the region, and look forward to interacting with crop consultants, extension personnel, vegetable producers and industry personnel during 1999. (Schwartz)

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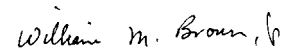
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

William M. Brown, Jr.



Extension Plant Pathologist