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Pest Alert

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NOTE: BEGINNING JANUARY, 2001, PEST ALERT WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB. HARD COPY ISSUES WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED. FOR ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO bspm@lamar.colostate.edu

REGISTRANT ANNOUNCES WORLDWIDE PHASE-OUT OF BENOMYL

On April 18, 2001, DuPont formally requested voluntary cancellation of all of benomyl end use and special local need product registrations. DuPont announced a business decision to discontinue the manufacture of benomyl throughout the global market by the end of this year. Benomyl, a widely used fungicide, has often been marketed under the trade name Benlate® here in the U.S. for the past 30 years.

The company has informed EPA that it expects to phase out distribution and sales of all benomyl products by the end of 2002. No sales will occur after December 31, 2001, and all products are expected to clear the channels of trade by the end of 2002.

Benomyl is approved for use on about 70 fruit, nut, vegetable, and field crops. No residential uses are approved. EPA has been in the process of reviewing the human health and ecological effects of benomyl in order to complete a reregistration eligibility decision (RED) on the pesticide next year.

DuPont claims, “A significant element of the reason to withdraw is that the company is no longer willing to bear the high and continuing costs of defending the product in the U.S. legal

system where factors other than good science can influence outcomes. In addition, there are significant ongoing costs and resources necessary to meet increased regulatory requirements around the world and keep the product active."

Information on DuPont's statements with regard to this action, is available on their website at: http://www.DuPont.com/corp/whats-new/releases/01/010419.html

DELETION OF CERTAIN PESTICIDE USES

EPA issued a notice announcing the receipt of requests to delete uses in certain pesticide registrations:

From Bayer Corporation:

- Di-Syston 68% Concentrate, containing disulfoton: use on corn, oats, pecans and tomatoes
- Di-Syston 15%, containing disulfoton: use on corn, oats, pecans and tomatoes
- Si-Syston 8, containing disulfoton: use on corn, oats, pecans and tomatoes

From Wright Webb Corporation

- Pyrellin E.C., containing pyrethrins, rotenone, cube resins other than rotenone: use in or on barns, milking parlors, milk rooms, dairies, poultry houses, harvested tomatoes, fruit and grain.

MUSK THISTLE MANAGEMENT

Musk thistle is a biennial and only reproduces from seed. The key to successful musk thistle management is to prevent seed set. Musk thistle plants currently are in the rosette growth stage. This is a good time to locate infestations and begin treating with herbicides such as Banvel (dicamba), 2,4-D, Tordon 22K (picloram), Transline (clopyralid), and Curtail (clopyralid + 2,4-D). Musk thistle susceptibility to 2,4-D, Banvel, or Tordon decreases as the weed begins to bolt. When infestations are sprayed with one of these herbicides after bolting begins, and particularly when flowering, typically the plant dies but sheds viable seed. Thus, the infestation is perpetuated. Data are mixed as to whether musk thistle sets viable seed when sprayed with clopyralid after the weed is in the bolting growth stage, but Transline or Curtail will consistently control musk thistle when applied during the rosette growth stage.

Cooperative research conducted by Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska indicates that Escort (metsulfuron) will eliminate seed set when musk thistle is sprayed up to the bud growth stage. We found that 0.3 oz ai/A (0.5 oz of product per acre) was very effective. A good agricultural surfactant must be used (0.25% v/v or 1 qt per 100 gallons of spray solution) or good control will not be achieved. We also suspect that late treatment with Escort may be compatible with the musk thistle seed head weevil by separating the herbicide treatment and insect activity in time. That is, allow the first few musk thistle heads to mature and time herbicide application around the later developing lateral heads when they are in the bud growth stage. The seed head weevil will complete its life cycle in the first developing heads and destroy seeds. The later herbicide application may not harm the insect because it will complete its life cycle and exit the plant. In this way, a management system combining biological and chemical control can be used.

For additional information refer to Colorado State University Service in Action 3.102, Musk Thistle: Biology and Management. (Beck).

LEAFY SPURGE CONTROL WITH HERBICIDES

Leafy spurge is in the flowering growth stage and waiting to be managed. This means that spring herbicide treatments will have to be applied soon. Be sure to check known infestations for growth stage, so as not to miss the critical window of spring application timing for Tordon, Banvel/Vanquish/Clarity, or 2,4-D.

Apply Tordon at 1 qt/A or Tordon + 2,4-D at 1 to 1.5 pt of Tordon plus 1 qt/A of 2,4-D. Banvel/Vanquish/Clarity should be applied at 2 qt/A. Tordon, Tordon + 2,4-D, or Banvel/Vanquish/Clarity should be applied each spring at flowering for 3 consecutive years. Plateau is a relatively new herbicide that can be used to control leafy spurge in non-crop areas. Plateau can be split-applied. Make the first application in fall at 8 oz of Plateau per acre and a second application must be made the following spring at 4 oz per acre when leafy spurge is flowering. Alternatively, Plateau can be applied at 12 oz per acre in fall; however, grass injury may be more severe at this rate, but grasses typically recover from injury the following season. When using Plateau, be certain to add a methylated seed oil and liquid nitrogen fertilizer solution to the spray solution to aid absorption of the herbicide. A Section 18 label for Plateau use in Colorado pastures or rangeland that are grazed should be approved soon.

The most successful leafy spurge management systems include seeding perennial grasses in fall. Roundup applied 2 to 3 times during the growing season at 1 qt/A followed by fall seeded perennial grasses has been successful. For additional information on leafy spurge management, see Colorado State University SIA 3.107 or call George Beck at (970) 491-7568. (Beck)

SPLIT PESTICIDE REGISTRATIONS TO BE STOPPED BY EPA

EPA announced that it would no longer award a split pesticide registration in which it approves a biotechnology product for animals but prohibits it for humans. Citing the StarLink incident, EPA said such approvals “will no longer be considered a regulatory option.” Although, this was EPA’s first official declaration of its position, EPA officials made their disapproval of future partial approvals clear last fall. EPA’s view followed the detection of StarLink corn in human food. EPA approved StarLink only for animal feed and industrial uses. StarLink was not approved for human consumption because of concerns that the corn, developed by Aventis CropScience to express the *Bt* toxin Cry9C, might trigger allergic reactions. EPA also released a draft paper showing how food processing affects levels of Cry9C in finished food. The draft document, EPA says, shows that StarLink corn that undergoes wet milling contains “essentially no residues” of Cry9C in finished human food. However, food products made from dry milling do contain the protein.

DIAZINON -- ALL INDOOR AND CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL USES DELETED

EPA, at the request of the manufacturers, has amended diazinon's end-use product registrations to delete all indoor uses and certain agricultural uses. The amended uses are listed below:

> Indoor uses: pet collars, or inside any structure or vehicle, vessel, or aircraft or any enclosed area, and/or on any contents therein (except mushroom houses), including food/feed handling establishments, greenhouses, schools, residences, museums, sports facilities, stores, warehouses and hospitals.
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> Agricultural uses: alfalfa, bananas, Bermuda grass, dried beans, celery, red chicory (radicchio), citrus, clover, coffee, cotton, cowpeas, cucumbers, dandelions, kiwi, lespedeza, parsley, parsnips, pastures, peppers, Irish potatoes, sheep, sorghum, spinach, squash (winter and summer), sweet potatoes, rangeland, strawberries, Swiss chard, tobacco, tomatoes, turnips.

Syngenta has also requested that "lawns" be removed from its commercial agricultural products containing diazinon.

Diazinon technical and manufacturing use products may be formulated into end-use products registered for the following agricultural use sites only: almonds, apples, apricots, beans (seed treatment only) except soybeans, beets, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, broccoli, cattle (non-lactating; ear tags only), Chinese broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, Chinese cabbage (bok choy and napa), cantaloupes, carrots, Casaba melons, cauliflower, cherries, collards, field corn (seed treatment only), sweet corn (including seed treatment), cranberries, Crenshaw melons, dewberries, endive (escarole), ginseng, grapes, honeydew melons, hops, kale, lettuce, lima beans (seed treatment only), loganberries, melons, muskmelons, mustard greens, Chinese mustard, nectarines, onions, peaches, pears, peas (seed treatment only), Persian melons, pineapples, plums, prunes, radishes, Chinese radishes, raspberries, rutabagas, sugar beets, walnuts, watercress (Hawaii only), and watermelons.

NEW MICROBIAL PESTICIDE REGISTERED

EPA registered *Coniothyrium minitans* strain CON/M/91-08 Trade Name Contans® 7WG, a new microbial product. *C. minitans* Strain CON/M/91_08 is a naturally occurring soil microorganism. This fungus attacks certain structures (sclerotia) of a few closely related fungi that cause plant diseases. This microbial pesticide is registered for use in soils to control *Sclerotinia sclerotiorium* and *S. minor*, the fungi species which cause plant diseases commonly known as white mold, pink rot and water soft rot. Both growth and germination of *C. minitans* Strain CON/M/91_08 are temperature dependent, and its optimum sporulation occurs at 25 to 30 C (77_86 F).

Contans7WG is approved for treatment of agricultural soil. It is diluted in water and applied as a spray to the soil, followed by mechanical mixing into the first one to two inches of the topsoil layer. The product is applied three to four months before planting, or after harvest.

Available studies show that no adverse human health or environmental effects are expected when products containing *C. minitans* strain CON/M/91-08 are used in accordance with label instructions. A fact sheet is also available on EPA's web site at: www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/biopesticides/factsheets/fs028836e.htm.

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

Sincerely,

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