

Vol. 18 No. 17

# Pest Alert

November 29, 2001

**NOTE: BEGINNING JANUARY 2001, PEST ALERT WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB.**

**FOR ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO [bspm@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:bspm@lamar.colostate.edu). (Check out our complete web site!)**

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## **VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION OF OXADIXYL ANNOUNCED**

EPA signed a cancellation order for all products containing the fungicide oxadixyl, in response to a request from the registrants to cancel all products containing this pesticide. Oxadixyl is a systemic fungicide used to treat seeds from a variety of food crops, as well as vetch, golf course turf, and residential lawns. This action was initiated in response to a request from the registrants to cancel all products containing oxydixyl. Both registrants cite declining sales, and state that they have not produced this pesticide for several years. EPA received no comments on this product and used the cancellation request. The cancellation was effective on September 27, 2001. EPA published the final cancellation order in the Federal Register on November 1, 2001. EPA plans to propose revocation of tolerances for oxadixyl. Existing stocks of these products may be sold until September 27, 2002 and used by persons other than the registrants until exhausted. (Sandra McDonald )



## CONSUMER LABELING INITIATIVE

The Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI) is a joint project between the EPA, the specialty pesticide industry, environmental groups, and state and local governments, to make pesticide labels easier to read and understand. The key message that EPA and its partners in the CLI want to get across is to "Read the Label FIRST!" To learn more about CLI visit <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/labeling/>.

"Read the Label First!" has been able to take part in a unique advertising opportunity in cooperation with EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. Trucks rolled across the country bearing ads promoting the safe use of pesticides, and includes CLI's "Read the Label First!" logo. These ads referred inquiries to the National Pesticides Telecommunications Network (NPTN). The pilot project, implemented in the summer of 2001, included routes on the East Coast between Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts, and routes in Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Diego on the West Coast. The second phase included routes in the New York City area in the spring of 2001.

The EPA Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI) has "Read the Label First!" promotional brochures and posters available. All of these materials are available electronically from <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/labeling/campaign.htm>. Items can be ordered in bulk, at no cost from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications:

Phone: 1\_800\_490\_9198 or 513\_489\_8190  
Fax: 513\_489\_8695  
Mail: NSCEP, PO Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242

When placing your order, please use the following publication numbers and titles:

EPA 740\_F\_00\_001 Protect your Kids  
EPA 740\_F\_00\_002 Protect your Pet  
EPA 740\_F\_00\_003 Protect your Garden  
EPA 740\_F\_00\_004 Protect your Household  
EPA 735\_H\_00\_001 "Use These Products Safely" poster

(Sandra McDonald)

## NEW RESTRICTIONS ON TWO PESTICIDES TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed new restrictions on the use of two agricultural pesticides (azinphos-methyl and phosmet) to increase protection of agricultural workers and assure that vital agricultural pest control needs are met.

Azinphos-methyl and phosmet, first registered over 35 years ago, are important pest control tools for certain food crops.

EPA has been evaluating azinphos-methyl and phosmet as part of the Agency's ongoing process to individually review the organophosphate pesticides and take necessary risk reduction measures as required under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

The decision for azinphos-methyl is that all 43 of the currently registered uses are ineligible for reregistration. For azinphos-methyl, 28 crop uses are being canceled for azinphos-methyl, there will be no phase-out period since there are viable alternatives. Seven crop uses are being phased-out over four years, and eight crop uses will be allowed to continue "time-limited" registration for another four years. For the 28 crop uses being canceled for azinphos-methyl, there will be no phase-out period since there are viable alternatives. Seven crops are being allowed to continue for four years to facilitate transition to viable alternatives. Also, EPA will allow a time-limited registration for four years for eight specific uses of azinphos-methyl.

This four-year period will allow farmers and others to develop and implement viable alternatives. Prior to the expiration of the time-limited registrations, EPA will consider whether to authorize any further extension. Prior to the expiration of the four-year period, EPA will conduct a comprehensive review of these eight crop uses, based on the latest scientific information, to determine if it should continue to allow registration.

Azinphos-methyl is registered by Bayer AG and Makhteshim-Agan Industries. The crop uses being phased out in four years include those for: almonds, tart cherries, cotton, cranberries, peaches, pistachios, and walnuts. The crops with time-limited registrations include: apples/crab apples, blueberries, sweet cherries, pears, pine seed orchards, brussel sprouts, cane berries, and the use of azinphos-methyl by nurseries for quarantine requirements.

For phosmet, three uses are being voluntarily cancelled, 9 crops are being authorized for use under specific terms for five years, and 33 crops are being approved for continued use. The new measures on phosmet are being implemented under an agreement with the registrant, Gowan Co. The three voluntary cancellations are all residential uses: domestic pets, household ornamentals, and household fruit trees. Phosmet, however, is used infrequently for these applications. The 9 crops authorized for use for five years under specific terms are: apples, apricots, blueberries, crabapples, grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums/dried plums.

During the period that these uses remain for azinphos-methyl and phosmet, EPA will require new health effects data, new information relating to the potential benefits, and any other information that provides for more accurate assessment of the potential risks and benefits. As the Agency moves forward with these decisions, it will work with the manufacturers, growers, farm workers, and other affected parties to assure that these important actions are implemented in an expeditious and effective manner.

To enhance protection of agricultural workers during the phase-out and time-limited registration periods, a variety of stringent new precautions are being implemented to reduce exposure; including longer periods before a worker can enter a treated area, significantly limiting the number of applications, and prohibiting aerial application for almost all uses. During this period, EPA will also require that studies on the potential health effects on

workers be conducted to help ensure that they are not exposed to unacceptable levels of these pesticides.

If new information shows unreasonable risks, the Agency could take immediate action to remove any of these uses.

(Sandra McDonald)

### **ORTHENE USES AMENDED**

Valent has reached an understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding Orthene (acephate insecticide). This agreement follows the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) safety review of all registered pesticides. Acephate is an organophosphate.

Valent has agreed to modify Orthene product labeling to drop all indoor residential uses, stemming from findings that indoor residential uses posed risks of concern for residential handlers and residents of treated homes. This includes Pest Control Operator (PCO) use inside residential buildings, including homes and apartments. Registrants also elected to drop turf uses (except golf course, sod farm, and spot or mound treatment for harvester and fire ant control) as a result of a risk concern for toddlers playing on treated lawns. Orthene can still be used for all agricultural, nursery, landscape, ornamental and greenhouse uses. PCOs can still use Orthene inside commercial, institutional and industrial buildings (such as restaurants, warehouses, stores, hospitals, hotels, manufacturing plants and ships).

For manufacturing use products, the notice proposes an effective use deletion date of December 31, 2001, for both uses.

(Sandra McDonald)

### ***Bt* CORN REGISTRATIONS EXTENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 2008**

On October 15, 2001, EPA extended the *Bt* corn registrations for Cry1Ab field corn, Cry1Ab sweet corn, and Cry1F field corn until October 15, 2008. The companies holding registrations for *Bt* corn are Monsanto, Syngenta, Pioneer/DuPont and Mycogen/Dow. The renewed registrations of the five *Bt* corn products continue to include specific requirements for companies to routinely monitor and/or collect data to ensure that the products' continued use does not lead to insect resistance or unexpected human health or environmental effects. EPA has also mandated several provisions to strengthen insect resistance management, to increase research data on potential environmental effects, and to improve grower education and stewardship. After a nearly two-year long review process, EPA determined that *Bt* corn would not pose unreasonable risks to human health or to the environment. Of particular concern during this process were the potential risks to Monarch butterflies. The scientific evidence demonstrates that *Bt* corn does not impact Monarch butterfly populations. EPA has also determined that there will be no effects to endangered species from the use of the currently registered *Bt* corn products. To view the complete *Bt* Crops BRAD (Biopesticides Registration Action Document) see [www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/reds/brad\\_bt\\_pip2.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/reds/brad_bt_pip2.htm).

## BEAN ROOT HEALTH

Soil-borne diseases, environmental stresses and production practices can contribute to reduced plant stands, greater soil compaction, and economic losses of dry beans grown in Colorado and the surrounding high plains states. Profitability of pinto beans (and other market classes) has become more difficult in recent years due to declining bean prices and increasing operating costs. Monitor every aspect of the crop to maintain profitability; this may require cutbacks in some inputs with investments in other inputs to increase plant health and net returns. This Plant Health Note provides a brief review of common soil borne diseases, and 9 steps to enhance bean root health, crop productivity, and net return by at least \$ 25 – 50/Acre. This information plus color illustrations will be available as a Plant Health Bulletin at no charge from the authors.

- Step 1** Soil test prior to planting and carefully plan your fertilizer and *Rhizobium* inoculant needs. In Colorado, the most important nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus, and zinc.
- Step 2** Use crop rotations in 3 – 4 year cycles to minimize the damage caused by plant pathogens, insects, weeds, herbicide carryover, soil compaction and crop residue; avoid back to back cycles of bean – potato – sugar beet, alternate with small grains and corn.
- Step 3** Reduce soil compaction and improve drainage by deep chiseling or ripping in the fall, and prior to planting or early post-emergence; avoid all field traffic when the soil is wet.
- Step 4** Plant high quality certified seed of a market class and varieties adapted to your farming situation and resources; treat seed with recommended pesticides to reduce seedling damping off and reduced root vigor from soil-borne insects and pathogens.
- Step 5** Control weeds by cultivation and the timely use of herbicides formulated to control the weeds specific to your field and soil type. Minimize direct bean plant (growing point) contact with post-emergence herbicides that could stress beans and delay maturity.
- Step 6** Plant bean seed 2 – 2.5 inches deep in a firm, weed-free seedbed when the morning soil temperature reaches 60 F at planting depth, generally from May 25 to June 15.
- Step 7** Planting rates on 30” wide rows should produce approximately 75000, 85000 and 95000 emerged seedlings/acre for most pinto/great northern, black/navy, and red kidney/yellow beans, respectively.
- Step 8** Irrigate when approximately 50% of the available soil moisture has been depleted; irrigate early and often to avoid stress to plant roots and to refill the root zone (12 – 24” depth) as needed throughout the season.
- Step 9** Inspect bean fields weekly to detect and quickly manage problems associated with soil compaction, nutrient deficiencies, moisture deficiency, salinity, insects, diseases and other factors before they reduce yields.

(Howard F. Schwartz and Mark A. Brick, Professors in the College of Agriculture)

## COMMENT PERIOD ON EPA’S DRAFT LABELING STATEMENTS FOR SPRAY AND DUST DRIFT MITIGATION EXTENDED

In response to public requests, EPA has extended the comment period on the Draft Pesticide Registration Notice (PRN) on New Labeling Statements for Spray and Dust Drift Mitigation. The draft PRN provides guidance on drift label statements for pesticide products

in an attempt to provide pesticide registrants, applicators, and other individuals responsible for pesticide applications with improved and more consistent product label statements. The proposed action is intended to help control pesticide drift from spray and dust applications in order to protect human health and the environment.

The comment period, originally ending on November 20, 2001, has been extended to January 19, 2002. The original PRN was published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2001 (66 FR 44141) and posted on EPA's website at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA\\_PEST/2001/August/Day\\_22/p20798.htm](http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA_PEST/2001/August/Day_22/p20798.htm).

(Sandra McDonald)

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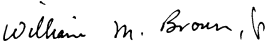
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,

  
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