

Look What's Out There

in

Integrated Pest Management

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Critical Period for Weed Control in Sweet Corn Production

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) ecologist Marty Williams has found that there is a critical period for weed control that could give sweet corn growers a new edge in their war on weeds. Based on field studies he has conducted near Urbana, Ill., since 2004, Williams has identified specific timeframes during the sweet corn growing season when competition from weeds will inflict yield losses. He also has found that planting date influences when during the season these timeframes occur. Williams' research involved planting corn at different times in the early part of the season (early May or late June) and allowing weeds to grow to different heights before killing them off. Williams found that the May-planted crop suffered the greatest yield losses—up to 85 percent, versus 15 percent for June-planted corn. Moreover, the May corn's critical weed-control period began earlier, on day 18, when the corn had reached its four-leaf stage. Conversely for the June-planted corn, the critical weed-control period didn't begin until day 53, which was beyond the 12-leaf stage and only a few weeks before harvest. Williams attributed the difference to sweet corn's excellent growth in late-season conditions, which gave the crop an edge over weeds. For sweet corn growers, planting in June or later could mean reduced herbicide use, less tillage or less time spent hand-pulling weeds, such as might be practiced by organic farmers.

(By Jan Suszkiw, USDA ARS June 2007)

Proposed Tolerance Actions on Select Pesticides

EPA is proposing to revoke certain tolerances for captan, 2, 4-D, dodine, endothall, propyzamide, permethrin, ethofumesate and dimethipin. Also, EPA is proposing to modify certain tolerances for captan, 2, 4-D, dodine, DCPA, endothall, propyzamide, permethrin, ethofumesate, and fomesafen. In addition, EPA is proposing to establish new tolerances for captan, 2, 4-D, dodine, propyzamide, permethrin, and ethofumesate. The regulatory actions proposed in this document are in follow-up to the Agency's reregistration program under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and the tolerance reassessment requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) section 408(q). Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0097, by one of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail: Comments must be received on or before August 6, 2007. Contact Jane Smith, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P), Office of Pesticide Programs, telephone number: (703) 308-0048; e-mail address: smith.jane-scott@epa.gov, for further information. For entire announcement, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2007/June/Day-06/p10863.htm>.
(EPA June 2007)

Minor Crop Producers May Benefit from Proposed Crop Grouping Rule

Minor crop producers and consumers will be the primary beneficiaries of a recent EPA proposal to revise its pesticide tolerance crop grouping regulations, which allow the establishment of tolerances for multiple, related crops based upon data from a representative set of crops. The proposed revision, published in a May 23, 2007, Federal Register notice, would create a new crop group for edible fungi (mushrooms), expand existing crop groups by adding new commodities, establish new crop subgroups, and revise the representative crops in some groups. These proposed changes reflect the global competition for new or ethnic commodities. EPA expects these revisions to promote greater use of crop groupings for tolerance-setting purposes and, in particular, to assist in retaining or making available pesticides for minor crop uses. This is the first in a series of regulatory crop group updates. The current proposal is based upon a petition submitted to EPA by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Inter-regional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4), along with the governments of Canada and Mexico, working with over 180 crop, agrichemical, and regulatory experts representing more than 30 countries. The petition and the monographs supporting it have been included in the docket for the proposed rule, which can be found under docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766 at www.regulations.gov. This proposal is a burden-reducing regulation. Comments are due on or before July 23, 2007. The Federal Register notice announcing the proposal can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-PEST/2007/May/Day-23/p9595.htm>.
(EPA May 2007)

EPA to Test Effect of Pesticides on Endocrine System

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it will test 73 pesticides for their potential to damage the endocrine system and disrupt the normal functioning of hormones in the body. EPA is seeking comments on the draft

list of 73 pesticides to be evaluated under the new screening regimen. EPA chose the list of 73 active and inert ingredients based on their relatively high potential for human exposure. Priority has been given to pesticide active ingredients where there is the potential for human exposure through food and water, residential exposure to pesticide products, and high levels of occupational exposure following an application of agricultural pesticides. Priority for pesticide inert ingredients was given to those with high production volumes found in human or ecological tissues, water, and indoor air. EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, mandated under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), will determine whether certain chemicals have an effect on the endocrine system, using validated tests and other scientific information. For the full announcement go to: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/e060e332184fa861852572f7005dc70f?OpenDocument>. The draft list can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/endo/pubs/prioritysetting/draftlist.htm>. To comment, follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments found in the electronic docket at Regulations.gov, docket number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2004-0109.
(Beyond Pesticides June 2007)

Agricultural and Environmental News

WVU Extension Service Quick Reference Pest Fact Sheets

A set of quick reference pest fact sheets has recently been developed by Jordan Eggers and Dr. John Baniecki of the West Virginia University Extension Service Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab. These fact sheets are meant to aid in the identification of vegetable, ornamental and agricultural crop diseases commonly encountered by growers, gardeners, and homeowners in West Virginia. The fact sheets are organized by plant type (i.e. tomato, potato, beans, etc.) and consist of a short description of symptoms, color photographs of typical symptoms, description of ideal conditions for disease development, disease

name, and causal organism. A link to the PDF file of the fact sheets can be found at the WVU Extension Service Pest Management website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/index.htm>. The fact sheets are a work in progress and additional plants and pests will be added regularly. If you have comments about the fact sheets or would like to suggest a disease or pest, please contact Dr. John Baniecki at john.baniecki@mail.wvu.edu.

Did You Know That



The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate any standing water present around yards and houses. This includes removing or draining all tin cans, pet dishes, buckets, holes in trees, clogged gutters and down spouts, old tires, birdbaths, shallow fishless ponds, and other water-retaining objects. Also, check for standing water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover pools and boats. Arrange tarps to drain water and turn canoes and small boats upside down for storage. For permanent water pools, such as ornamental ponds, stock them with mosquito larvae eating fish. (Beyond Pesticides, <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/Mosquito%20control.pdf>)

Events



July 11-14, 2007

The Second National Conference on Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education. Cornell University. For more information contact Kathi Colen Peck, Conference Coordinator, kscp@turbonet.com.

July 18-19, 2007

Green-Blue Summit - Clean Water Through Residential IPM. The Green-Blue Summit will focus on connections between water quality and integrated pest management (IPM) in turf and structural settings. It will be held at Penn State's Great Valley Conference Center, about 30 miles west of Philadelphia. For more information and to register go to: www.NortheastIPM.org/greenbluesummit.cfm

July 28 - August 1, 2007

American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. For more information, go to: <http://meeting.apsnet.org/>

August 7-9, 2007

Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species. Hilton Hotel, Fort Collins, Colorado. For more information go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/nwrc/symposia/invasives/index.html>

August 19-23, 2007

234th ACS National Meeting

The topic for the meeting is: Rodenticides for the protection of public health, agriculture and natural resources and will be held in Boston, MA. For more information go to: <http://northeastipm.org/ontarget/2007/rodenticidepapers.pdf>

September 10-12, 2007

Convergence of Genomics and the Land Grant Mission: Emerging Trends in the Application of Genomics in Agricultural Research. Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. For more information go to: <http://northeastipm.org/ontarget/2006/GenomicsConf1stAnnounce.pdf>

October 22-26, 2007

North American Plant Protection

Organization's Annual Meeting

St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador – Canada.

For more information go to:

<http://www.nappo.org/annualmtg/2007/Annualmtg07-e.htm>

Comments or Questions?

If you have any comments or questions regarding any of the material presented, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: jbanieck@wvu.edu.

Thank you.