EPA Releases Minor Use Report and Creates Minor Use Web Page

EPA's long-awaited Report on the Minor Uses of Pesticides, mandated by the FQPA amendment to FIFRA, was recently released. The report, authored by EPA Minor Crop Advisor Pat Cimino, details EPA's efforts to increase responsiveness to minor crop concerns and expedite registrations for minor use pesticides. It also outlines the coordinated approach being used by EPA, USDA, and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for dealing with minor use issues. Minor uses not only include fruit, vegetable and ornamental crops but also control of disease vectors such as mosquitoes, cockroaches and rodents. The report and other related materials can be found on EPA's new minor use web page http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/minoruse/. EPA, in partnership with IR-4, has aggressively sought to increase pest control registrations for minor uses. In 2000, over 80% of new registrations have been for reduced-risk products.

The Minor Use Report is interesting reading for all who have a stake in minor crops and minor uses. Sections are devoted to the minor use problem, priorities and registration activities for minor uses, FQPA provisions and minor uses, retaining critically needed pesticides, relying on sound science and realistic data, maintaining a level playing field in world markets, and EPA's cooperative efforts with IR-4 and the Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP).

Article by Sandy Perry

Greenhouse Fungicide, Insecticide and Miticide Needs

A June 14 meeting at IR-4 Headquarters and a concurrent follow-up conference call helped to identify and prioritize pests, pest control strategies, and future pest control needs for greenhouse grown food crops, particularly tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. The meeting was attended by approximately 35 greenhouse industry, pesticide company, and Cooperative Extension personnel. An additional 35 people joined in during the summarization process through the conference call. Many pests were discussed and new compounds identified as potential tools for greenhouse food crops. IR-4 currently has studies underway on greenhouse tomatoes to support bifenazate, bifenthrin, buprofezin, imidacloprid, pyriproxyfen and pyridaben.

Insect and mite pests on greenhouse vegetables were identified and prioritized in order of significance to the industry. For tomato, the pests of concern were mites, psyllids, whiteflies, thrips, aphids, Lepidoptera, and leafminers. Pests of pepper included pepper weevil (mostly a problem in the south), thrips, psyllids, and lygus bugs. Aphids, mites, whitefly, and Lepidoptera were considered sporadic pests of greenhouse peppers. Major cucumber pests were similar to tomato and included mites, whiteflies, and thrips. Aphids, Lepidoptera, cucumber beetle, leafhopper, lygus bugs, and fungus gnats were considered sporadic pests needing occasional control measures.

Current control measures were discussed to identify gaps in pest management programs. The group then decided which pesticides would be worth pursuing for use in greenhouses. Acetamiprid was identified as a need for tomato and pepper. Its safety to bees was considered very important. Buprofezin is needed for pepper and cucumber (IR-4 is already working on greenhouse tomato). Fipronil is needed on pepper for pepper weevil control. Cucumber, tomato, and pepper would benefit from a registration of novaluron, an IGR effective against immature stages of Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Homoptera, and Diptera. The broad spectrum product chlorfenapyr was identified as a need for cucumber (the registrant will work on pepper and tomato). This product will be available for greenhouse registrations only. The group emphasized the need for short pre-harvest intervals in greenhouse production systems. Reducing the PHI for abamectin (currently 7 days) would make that product much more useful to the industry.

Disease control needs of tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and cucumbers were discussed. The highest disease control need identified at the meeting was Botrytis gray mold control on tomatoes. This is due to tomatoes being the largest greenhouse crop and Botrytis being a disease that has caused significant economic losses with no effective disease control tools. An 'A' priority was given to the development of Switch®, a mixture of cyprodinil and fludioxonil, on tomatoes (both field and greenhouse) at the IR-4 Food-Use Workshop. Botrytis gray mold control was identified as the number one problem on the other major greenhouse crops discussed: lettuce, cucumbers and peppers. Other action items included: shortening of the PHI for Botran (DCNA); obtaining European residue data for fenhexamid on a number

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of greenhouse crops for the control of Botrytis, and the development of one or more additional fungicides (BAS 516, pyrimethanil, triflumizole) for the control of Botrytis. A large number of fungicides is needed for Botrytis control in greenhouse tomatoes due to the long growing season and the limited number of applications allowed by registrants for each compound for purposes of resistance management. Pythium root rot was identified as the number one or number two problem on the four crops discussed at the meeting. Aventis indicated that they have European residue data for the use of Previcur (propamocarb HCl) through drip irrigation systems. They will work to acquire these data for submission to EPA through IR-4. Powdery mildew was identified as another important pest on tomatoes, pepper, and cucumber; however, no specific action items were identified at this time.

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