

Pesticide NEWS ALERT: Some Malathion Uses Cancelled

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that several pesticide producing companies have voluntarily cancelled some of the uses of the insecticide malathion. As of July 15, 2009, Loveland Products, Helena Chemical Company, and Nufarm Americas cancelled most of the agricultural and commercial uses of their malathion products.

For the rest of the companies marketing malathion, including Scotts (Ortho), Value Garden Supply, Drexel, Gowan, and several others, only some of their uses have been cancelled. The most common cancelled uses include: residential (home) lawns, golf courses, greenhouses, livestock, outdoor fly control and lentils.

According to the terms of the cancellation order, the companies may continue to sell existing supplies of their malathion products for 1 year from the effective date of cancellation (July 15, 2009). Existing stocks already in the hands of dealers or users can be distributed, sold, or used legally until they are exhausted. End users (homeowners, farmers, etc.) can continue to use the malathion products as per their current label instructions.

The complete cancellation order can be downloaded from this EPAweb page:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2009/July/Day-15/p16641.htm> .

What does this mean for pesticide users? It means that if you have malathion at home or on the farm, you can continue using it as you always have. You do not need to dispose of your malathion products -- simply continue using these products according to the label.

If you decide you no longer want to use your malathion, **DO NOT POUR IT DOWN THE DRAIN OR DUMP IT OUT SOMEWHERE!!!** Improper pesticide disposal is a violation of both Indiana and federal law.

By next summer, the cancelled malathion products will no longer be found in the marketplace, and the pesticide labels will have changed for the products that remain on the market after specific uses have been terminated.

The EPA cancellation order is an administrative action resulting from VOLUNTARY cancellation requests from the various pesticide producing companies mentioned above. The pesticide producing companies may have decided that it wasn't economically sound to maintain these registrations and simply elected to VOLUNTARILY drop those products and uses.

If you have questions regarding the EPA cancellation order for certain malathion products, contact the Office of the Indiana State Chemist at 765-494-1585.

(Our thanks to Larry Caplan, Horticulture Extension Educator in Vanderburgh County, for providing the above summary of the EPA cancellation order.)