Copper Use in Hawaii -- Additional Information Request about Mango and Papaya

Dear Cathy and Mike,

I am contacting you because I am preparing an assessment of your responses to the Copper RED on behalf of the mango and papaya growers.

It appears that your concerns relative to these two crops were:

1] Papaya -- a 48 hour REI would increase risk of disease losses and complicate scheduling of worker activities; and

2] Mangoes -- in recent years growers have been experiencing abnormal events of multiple flowering periods in a single season, which necessitate more applications per year.

Assuming that our perceptions of your comments are correct, we have the following questions:

1] Which disease is likely to cause the claimed losses on papaya, if timely applications of copper cannot be maintained because of a 48-hour REI?

2] Are the abnormal multiple flowerings on mangoes expected to continue in future years?

3] What evidence exists to demonstrate/suggest that 3.2 pounds metallic copper/A application rate are needed rather than the 2.6 pounds metallic copper/A proposed in the RED?

4] What are the target pests for copper on these two crops? Are there any suitable alternatives for controlling these pests?

Thanks,

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