



Katie Murray, Program Leader,
Integrated Plant Protection Center
Assistant Professor of Practice,
Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology
2040 Cordley Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2915
katie.murray@oregonstate.edu
541-231-1983

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20460-0001
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Re: EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0148, Cymoxanil Proposed Interim Decision

The following comments provide information from the Pacific Northwest potato industry to support EPA's Proposed Interim Decisions for cymoxanil. These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Western IPM Center.

In Pacific Northwest potato production, cymoxanil is primarily used for limiting transmission of the late blight pathogen during the seed cutting process. Some have used the active ingredient for foliar applications for late blight control. However, use of cymoxanil on cut potato seed is very limited, and most growers do not use it. Other options are available for managing late blight pathogen spread. Thus, the proposed rate reduction is not expected to have a significant impact on the Pacific Northwest potato industry.

Respectfully,

Katie Murray

Katie Murray
Program Leader, IPM Engagement and Implementation
Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC)
Assistant Professor of Practice
Department of Environmental and Molecular Toxicology
Oregon State University
541-231-1983
katie.murray@oregonstate.edu

Katie Murray is the Western IPM Center's Information Network Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest. Katie has expertise in agricultural stakeholder engagement and assessment methods related to understanding pesticide usage and pesticide compatibility with IPM.

The IPPC is the hub for Oregon's statewide IPM program, and the main IPM resource in Oregon for farmers, researchers, and extension agents. The expertise represented in the IPPC is highly interdisciplinary and includes toxicology, entomology, horticulture, adult education, public health, and anthropology, all with an IPM focus. Within the IPPC, we have a collective expertise in understanding the use of pesticides within IPM programs with a goal of protecting the economic, environmental and human health interests of our stakeholders.

To compile comments, input is actively solicited from stakeholders throughout the Pacific Northwest in an effort to convey use patterns, benefits, potential impacts, and the availability and efficacy of alternatives. These comments largely reflect agricultural stakeholder feedback and do not imply endorsement by Oregon State University or the Western IPM Center.