

DCPA (Dacthal) Use in California

Date: Thursday, July 24, 2003
To: [Harold Coble](#)
Agronomist, USDA/ARS/OA
Office of Pest Management Policy
From: [Rick Melnicoe](#)
Subject: Re: DCPA (Dacthal)

Harold,

There would be serious problems with a number of minor crops in California. Green onions and cole crops rely on DCPA for weed control. Green onions need a good material because young onions are very poor competitors with weeds. Some of the Chinese Cole crops have few, if any alternatives. DCPA was unavailable for awhile and it was a real problem. I am attaching a [use report](#) (Excel chart) for 2001 in CA for DCPA so you can see all the crops that use the chemical.

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Response to:

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Subject: DCPA (Dacthal)

I got a call from Jill Bloom of EPA, CRM for DCPA. DCPA is a herbicide used on Cole crops, onions, and some other crops. Apparently there are serious cancer and groundwater issues with this chemical. EPA needs to know if there would be hardships created by cancelling the registration of DCPA. Can you check with the minor crops people in your regions to see what the story is on DCPA use and what alternatives are available and/or used?

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The production agricultural use of Chorothal-dimethyl (DCPA or Dacthal) on all crops in California in 2001. The measures of use are described in the accompanying table.

Crop or Site	Num. of Fields	% Base Acres Treated	Base Acres Treated	Cum. Acres Treated	Total Lbs AI	Lbs AI/ acre treated			Num. apps	Num. Applications per treated field		
						Med rate	Min rate	Max rate		Med apps/ field	Min apps/ field	Max apps/ field
BEAN, SUCCULENT	1	0.02	3	3	27	9.00	9.00	9.00	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
BEAN, UNSPECIFIED	1	0.00	1	1	3	3.75	3.75	3.75	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
BOK CHOY	121	3.78	443	592	2,561	3.00	1.88	9.00	238	1.00	1.00	5.00
BROCCOLI	1,988	14.31	29,080	31,401	85,479	2.25	0.75	6.00	2,277	1.00	1.00	2.00
CABBAGE	182	4.70	1,728	1,814	7,038	3.00	2.21	9.00	274	1.00	1.00	5.00
CANOLA (RAPE)	2	5.24	12	12	53	4.38	3.75	5.00	2	1.00	1.00	1.00
CAULIFLOWER	403	7.03	5,345	5,496	13,521	2.25	0.75	6.00	451	1.00	1.00	2.00
CHINESE CABBAGE (NAPPA)	165	14.21	1,146	1,383	4,462	3.00	1.88	6.05	324	1.00	1.00	7.00
CHINESE GREENS	1	0.18	2	2	8	3.41	3.41	3.41	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
COLLARD	7	1.11	31	31	149	5.99	2.25	6.01	13	2.00	1.00	3.00
GAI CHOY	3	18.55	17	17	100	6.00	6.00	6.00	10	2.00	2.00	2.00
GAI LON	4	18.08	226	226	855	3.75	3.75	6.00	17	1.50	1.00	2.00
GARLIC	1	0.01	4	4	18	4.50	4.50	4.50	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
KALE	72	6.77	563	564	1,616	2.25	1.50	7.50	98	1.00	1.00	4.00
KOHLRABI	38	3.48	48	48	161	3.00	3.00	4.50	39	1.00	1.00	1.00
LEEK	9	1.63	35	36	99	2.63	2.50	6.00	17	1.00	1.00	3.00
LETTUCE, HEAD	1	0.00	8	8	14	1.88	1.88	1.88	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
LETTUCE, LEAF	2	0.02	28	28	64	2.25	2.25	2.25	2	1.00	1.00	1.00
MUSTARD	7	0.59	36	36	168	5.99	1.50	6.01	14	1.00	1.00	4.00
N-GRNHS FLOWER	1	0.05	1	1	6	4.80	4.80	4.80	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
N-OUTDR FLOWER	42	1.72	291	327	1,481	4.50	1.13	15.00	83	1.00	1.00	6.00
N-OUTDR PLANTS IN CONTAINERS	1	0.00	2	2	6	3.85	3.28	4.41	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
ONION, DRY	183	10.80	6,548	6,640	37,487	6.00	3.00	7.50	210	1.00	1.00	3.00
ONION, GREEN	133	24.23	1,426	1,515	7,449	4.50	2.25	9.00	212	1.00	1.00	5.00
PECAN	1	0.24	5	5	4	0.75	0.75	0.75	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
PEPPER, FRUITING	19	0.65	191	192	574	2.25	1.50	4.50	19	1.00	1.00	1.00
RADISH	18	16.31	571	576	3,997	6.00	3.14	9.00	57	1.50	1.00	11.00
RAPPINI	67	21.84	1,802	1,812	4,986	2.51	1.17	10.50	73	1.00	1.00	2.00
SPINACH	1	0.00	2	2	14	6.75	6.75	6.75	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
SQUASH	2	0.12	6	6	32	4.88	3.75	6.00	2	1.00	1.00	1.00
SQUASH, SUMMER	5	0.95	23	29	70	2.25	2.25	2.25	6	1.00	1.00	1.00
STRAWBERRY	1	0.02	10	10	26	2.63	2.63	2.63	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
TOMATO	2	0.01	6	6	29	4.88	4.88	4.89	2	1.00	1.00	1.00
TURF/SOD	12	1.38	110	110	1,053	9.00	9.00	10.50	23	1.50	1.00	3.00
TURNIP	7	2.77	75	75	268	6.00	4.13	6.03	14	1.00	1.00	3.00
UNCULTIVATED AG	1	0.01	13	13	23	1.80	1.80	1.80	1	1.00	1.00	1.00
WATERMELON	1	0.38	50	50	56	1.13	1.13	1.13	1	1.00	1.00	1.00

-- Description of all columns used in the pesticide use table

- **"Num. of Fields"** is the number of fields that were treated with an AI.
- **"% Base Acres Treated"** is the percent of acres of crop planted, as calculated from the PUR, that were treated one or more times by each active ingredient (AI).
- **"Base Acres Treated"** is the total number of acres planted that were treated one or more times by each AI.
- **"Cumulative Acres Treated"** is the sum of the acres treated for each application even when the same area was treated more than once.
- **"Total Lbs AI"** is the sum of pounds of each AI used on this crop.
- **"Med rate"** is the median rate of all applications.
- **"Min rate"** is the smallest rate after removing the lowest 2.5% of the rate values.
- **"Max rate"** is the largest rate after removing the highest 2.5% of the rate values.
- **"Num. apps."** is the number of applications of the AI in the crop. Applications of the same AI to the same field within 2 days is counted as one application.
- **"Med apps/field"** is the median number of applications per field, taken over only fields treated with the AI.

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- **med apps/field** is the median number of applications per field, taken over only fields treated with the AI.
- **"Min apps/field"** is the smallest number of applications per treated field after removing the lowest 2.5% of values.
- **"Max apps/field"** is the largest number of applications per treated field after removing the highest 2.5% of values
- **"Num. WFE apps"** is the number of "whole field equivalent (WFE)" applications. A WFE application is the acres treated divided by acres planted in that field.
- **"Med WFE/ field"** is the median number of WFE applications per field, taken over all treated fields
- **Min WFE/ field"** is the smallest number of WFE applications per treated field after removing the lowest 1.0% of values
- **"Max WFE/ field"** is the largest number of WFE applications per treated field after removing the highest 1.0% of values
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