

Metaldehyde Use in the Pacific Northwest

Date: May 08, 2006

To: [Jill Bloom](#)

Cc: [Rocky Lundy](#), [Rick Melnicoe](#), et al.

From: [Jane M. Thomas](#)

Subject: Metaldehyde Use on PNW Mint (Ref: 2006-9-2)

Jill below please find additional PNW information regarding the use of metaldehyde in mint production. This information was provided by Rocky Lundy with the Mint Industry Research Council. ~ Jane

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[Pacific Northwest Comment Coordinator](#)

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From: [Rocky Lundy](#)

Sent: Monday, May 08, 2006 9:51 AM

To: Jane M. Thomas

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Subject: Metaldehyde Use on Mint?

From: Jane M. Thomas [<mailto:jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu>]

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2006 2:57 PM

To: Rocky Lundy

Subject: Metaldehyde Use on Mint?

I received a request from EPA via USDA for use information for the slug and snail product metaldehyde. I am trying to get a handle on the uses in our region. I know metaldehyde is used in mint and would appreciate some help with the following questions. If you could have your response back to me in the next few days that would be helpful:

1) Is metaldehyde used only for slug control or are snails also a problem in PNW mint production?

The great majority if not all metaldehyde applications in mint are for control of slugs.

2) Is metaldehyde used as a granular/pelletized version or as a liquid? All applications are granular/pellet.

3) Is there any aerial application of metaldehyde? No

4) How many metaldehyde applications are made to mint in a growing season and roughly what percentage of the acreage is treated with metaldehyde? Metaldehyde is applied in mint only once (early spring) and the majority of applications are regional in nature with the Willamette Valley of Oregon being the worst in regards to slug infestations/problems although even areas such as the Yakima Valley which have a much dryer/warmer climate can experience slug problems if certain weather conditions develop/exist. In areas such as the Willamette Valley up to 50% of the acreage can be treated for slugs in a given year whereas other dryer areas may need to be treated only once every 5-7 years depending on the weather. The percentage of these treated acres would be dependent upon the level of infestation, crop rotation and other factors in the given year.

5) What are the alternatives to metaldehyde and if they are efficacious why aren't they used? There are no alternatives to this product for controlling slugs/snails in mint.
