

Pesticide Information Request Response
Arid Southwest IPM Network
Arizona Pest Management Center
August 20, 2009

Data Request: Oxamyl Use in Arizona

Subject: BEAD information request forwarded by Ted Rogers, USDA, Office of Pest Management Policy, on the use of oxamyl on California cucumbers and California and Arizona watermelons.

Date Sent: August 7, 2009

Comments Due: Unspecified

Process / Data Sources: Al Fournier of the Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC) forwarded the request to Arizona stakeholders, including vegetable IPM specialist Dr. John Palumbo, and 3 pest control advisors (PCAs) that represent a high percentage of watermelon acres in Arizona. In addition, we examined pesticide use reporting records submitted to the Arizona Department of Agriculture from 2001 to 2005 and data from an annual survey of melon growers (melon pest losses survey) conducted by John Palumbo.

Response for Arizona

A single oxamyl application was reported to the Arizona Department of Agriculture on 72 acres of watermelons between 2001 to 2005, to control leafminers. Melon Pest Losses survey data, provided by Arizona PCAs representing the majority of watermelon growers in the state, indicated no reported use of oxamyl on watermelons in Yuma Valley or Central Arizona in 2008 or 2009. However, oxamyl use has been reported on cantaloupes where the target pest has been nematodes when applied through the drip irrigation, or whiteflies, as a foliar application. On fall melons, Yuma area PCA's have been known to apply Vydate in combination with pyrethroid for adulticidal control of whiteflies, with the goal of suppressing Cucurbit Yellow Stunting Disease Virus (CYSDV), which whitefly can vector. But it is unclear if this practice applies to watermelons, as we grow so few acres in the fall. There are alternative chemistries for whitefly control (adults), including endosulfan, methomyl, bifenthrin, dinotefuran. For nematodes, alternatives are less clear, but the fact that there is no reported use suggests that either viable alternatives exist or nematode problems are not severe enough to warrant treatment. If applied to soil for nematodes this product would not interfere with hand conducted production practices.

A central Arizona PCA responded: "I can't remember the last time I used oxamyl in watermelons. The only use that I can think of would be emergency nematode control. Any use reductions would not be welcome but not critical." Another central Arizona PCA similarly responded: "I have not used Oxamyl on watermelons in several years. I use a little in cantaloupe production and a 6 day REI would probably eliminate that. I hate to lose any tool, but we could survive."