

Thiophanate-methyl Use in the Desert Southwest
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Information Request: Thiophanate-methyl registration review, open comment period.

Source: USDA Office of Pest Management Policy via Western IPM Center

Request Date: Mar 31, 2014

Response Date: May 15, 2014

Process:

The Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC) requested input from Extension specialists, plant pathologists, crop consultants, pest control advisors and Arid Southwest IPM Network contacts in AZ, CA, NM and NV. We also queried the APMC Pesticide Use Database, which contains uses reported to the Arizona Department of Agriculture since 1991. We did not get a timely response from all contacts, but have summarized important stakeholder comments below.

Comments

Various formulations of Topsin with the active ingredient thiophanate-methyl are used in AZ. Topsin WSP (used in recent years) is registered on many diverse crops, including nuts (pecans and pistachio), fruit trees, melons, tuber crops, beans, etc. for various diseases. In Arizona, there was significant use of this active ingredient on melons (all types) through about 2008, and a smaller treated acreage of dry onions and beans for those years. From 2010 on, main uses have been in onions and beans, very small acres treated.

According to Mike Matheron, University of Arizona Plant Pathologist, efficacy for management of powdery mildew on melons has declined markedly over the years, which explains why it is not used much anymore. Thiophanate-methyl was used years ago to manage Sclerotinia (white mold) but is no longer is use for this. According to two Arizona pest control advisors who work in melons, thiophanate-methyl may still be useful to some degree as a rotational option, but is not longer a “go to” chemistry option for melon disease control. There are now better options on melons (e.g., Procure, Quintec).