

DCPA (Dacthal) Use in Hawaii

Date: Friday, September 5, 2003

To: [Harold Coble](#), USDA, and Rick Melnicoe, WRPMC director

From: Cathy Tarutani

Subject: DCPA (Dacthal) Use in Hawaii

Attached is a brief note about [important uses of DCPA in Hawaii](#). These uses are for onions and head and Chinese cabbage.

If you have any questions or can provide further information about the DCPA registration, please contact [Mike Kawate](#), Pesticide Registration Specialist, (808) 956-6008) or me.

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Response to:

Date: Friday, July 24, 2003

To: Rick Melnicoe, WRPMC director

From: Harold Coble

Subject: DCPA Use in Hawaii

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?

Thanks,

[Harold D. Coble](#)

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DCPA (Dacthal) use in Hawaii

Cancellation of DCPA (Dacthal) will definitely have a negative impact on growers of some vegetable crops in Hawaii. Dacthal works very well for preemergence weed control and there are no suitable alternatives to Dacthal for these crops in Hawaii.

Crops of particular concern:

1. Bulb Onions

Dacthal is the only preemergence herbicide available for Hawaii onion growers. It is needed to control weeds for about 4-6 weeks, until Goal can be applied. This is especially critical in direct seeded onion plantings. Farmers can experience great economic losses (including loss of whole plantings) if weeds cannot be controlled during the first weeks of onion germination and growth.

2. Cole Crops:

Especially,

- **Head Cabbage**
- **Chinese Cabbage**

Dacthal is also important to head and Chinese cabbage growers especially in the higher elevations where the major weed pest is galinsoga (*Galinsoga parviflora*). Other registered herbicides such as Goal will not control this weed pest and only Dacthal will do a fairly decent job in controlling this pest.

While Dacthal isn't the only herbicide registered for cole crops, it has an important role in providing good to excellent preemergence control which makes the other herbicides that are registered that much more effective. Also, Dacthal is important for resistance management.