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**Request for Information from Western Region on PCNB Use on Ornamentals**

Date: Feb. 7, 2005

To: [Stephen N. Wegulo](#)  
Plant Pathology  
UC Riverside

From:  
[Rick Melnicoe](#)  
Director, Western Integrated Pest Management Center  
Director, Office of Pesticide Information and Coordination (UC Statewide  
Pesticide Coordinator)  
University of California  
Davis, CA 95616-8588

I received the [following request](#) from USDA. Can you answer these questions on ornamentals for me and reply back to me? The 2003 Pesticide Use Report from DPR shows some use on ornamentals (see [attached spreadsheet](#)). Does this seem correct?

Thanks.

[Rick Melnicoe](#)  
Director, Western Integrated Pest Management Center  
Director, Office of Pesticide Information and Coordination (UC Statewide  
Pesticide Coordinator)  
University of California  
Davis, CA 95616-8588  
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From: [Kent L. Smith](#), Ph.D.

Plant Pathologist  
Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)  
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)  
USDA

PCNB is a fungicide used primarily as a seed treatment, soil drench or spray to control damping-off, stem rots, and root rots. EPA is at the stage of reregistration of PCNB where they must explore both the risks and the benefits of PCNB use of each labeled crop/site. Their goal is to create as little economic impact as possible, yet achieve the desired level of risk mitigation.

They have requested information about the critical nature of pest control with PCNB on the following sites.

- cotton
- garlic
- ornamentals (nursery and non-nursery)
- peanuts
- peppers
- potatoes
- snapbeans (foliar applications especially)
- soybeans
- tomatoes
- turf (residential, commercial, residential, golf course, etc.)

Could you forward this request to the appropriate experts in each state in your region? Please ask them to send me any information about the critical nature of pest control with PCNB on any of the above sites. If possible, please indicate the:

1. Crop and pest that are critical
2. Why it is critical
3. The needed rate of application
4. The approximate percent crop acreage treated in your region (indicate the region)
5. Alternative tools available to manage the pest problem and their usefulness
6. Your association and contact information

I will collate your answers and forward them to EPA. However, If you would like to speak directly to the review manager for PCNB at the EPA, contact: [Jill Bloom](#), 703-308-8019, She will be happy to talk with you.

Thank you,

[Kent L. Smith](#), Ph.D.

Plant Pathologist

Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP)

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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From: MTAUKUM@aol.com  
Date: Tue, 15 Mar 2005 12:25:04 EST  
Subject: Re: PCNB use on ornamentals  
To: stephen.wegulo@ucr.edu

Stephen - I was hoping you got better feedback than I did. I cannot answer the questions that they put forward to you. Nobody has this kind of detail. I will offer the following.

PCNB is a critical element of a wide variety of field grown ornamentals. It is the only fungicide for Rhizoctonia that does not become rapidly ineffective in the soil due to solubility and other degradation issues. It is also very cost effective since it represents older chemistry. No resistance has been found that I am aware of. PCNB provides control of neck rots and crown rots primarily caused by Rhizoctonia. The fungicide is applied once at the beginning of the crop cycle and no other fungicide is then needed. Newer products that are widely used in the container industry include Heritage (azoxystrobin) and Medallion (fludioxonil). Thiophanate methyl compounds also work to some degree on Rhizoctonia but are not used in the field due to high use rates, resistance issues, cost and high solubility and therefore short lived effects. The crops that often employ PCNB include gladiolus, alstroemeria, freesia, lilies and Matthiola (stock). I have attached a table I made with cut flower crops acreage that I did for the MBr CUE. I highlighted the crops with serious Rhizoctonia issues. Although gladiolus are not listed this is the biggest single user of the product as far as I can tell. As we lose use of methyl bromide and other fumigants we must have long term, safe, inexpensive alternatives like PCNB or we will not be able to grow many key cut flower and cut foliage crops.

In the greenhouse, PCNB remains a key product for both Rhizoctonia and southern blight (*Sclerotium rolfsii*). It is widely used on tropical foliage plants as well as pot crops like poinsettias. The use of the newer fungicides (listed above) is probably large for Rhizoctonia than PCNB at this point. They are very cost effective in small containers (6 inch and less) and their longevity is acceptable in this setting.

I hope this helps.

Ann Chase