

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

John Westoby
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

2604 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone (707) 565-2371

February 2002

Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Opbroek

CHANGES TO CHLORPYRIFOS (DURSBAN)

Submitted by Sue Opbroek

Last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agreement with pesticide manufacturers that would remove many uses of chlorpyrifos from the market. This agreement ended the sale or distribution of chlorpyrifos (commonly known by the brand name Dursban) for virtually all-home use products and many other indoor and outdoor non-residential uses where children could be exposed. The cancellation of sale of these products took effect as of December 31, 2001. Ant and roach baits that are in child-resistant packaging have not been cancelled.

EPA conducted a review of chlorpyrifos as part of its effort to ensure that all older pesticides meet the tough new safety standards established by the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act. Through this review, EPA determined that chlorpyrifos, as it was currently used, did not provide an adequate margin of protection for children that are exposed to the chemical. This action adds a greater measure of protection for children by reducing and eliminating the most important sources of exposure.

The agreement ended the manufacture of products bearing instructions for residential use as of December 1, 2000, and the retail sale and distribution as of December 31, 2001. This includes uses such as home and garden sprays, pet treatments and applications to home lawns.

There are more than 800 different home use products that contain chlorpyrifos. These products may list "chlorpyrifos" or "Dursban" as an active ingredient on the front of the label, or

they may only have the chemical name: "O,O-diethyl O-(3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyl) phosphorothioate." Retailers should check their products and be certain that they are abiding by the agreement.

It is legal for consumers to use chlorpyrifos home use products according to label directions and precautions after December 31, 2001. Use of these products according to label directions does not pose an immediate hazard. Consumers who choose to use these products or any pesticide should always take special care to read and follow the label precautions and directions.

In Sonoma County consumers and retailers who wish to dispose of chlorpyrifos or any other pesticide can call the Eco Desk at 565-DESK. Retailers that have unsold or returned products can also contact their distributor to determine if they will buy back or take back stocks.

PERMIT SEASON

Permit issuance is moving along swiftly. We have been taking appointments for renewal since December 10, 2001. As January came to a close we were just over half way done issuing renewals for permits and identification numbers. We have issued 456 permits or identification numbers and have 374 more to go.

PERMIT SEASON CONT.

Please check your permit or identification number, if you have not already, to see if you need to renew. If you do need to renew please call our office at 565-2371 to schedule an appointment. At this time we are not taking walk-ins for renewals, you must schedule an appointment.

Remember, your permit or identification number must be current before you buy or use pesticides.

OLIVE FRUIT FLY MAKES APPEARANCE IN SONOMA COUNTY

Submitted by Dan Curtin

On January 29, 2002 an Olive Fruit Fly (OLFF) informational meeting was held at the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Office. This meeting had representatives from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the U.C. Cooperative Extension, the CDFR, and pesticide dealers.

The OLFF was first discovered in Sonoma County November 2001 by Agricultural Biologist Gary Bjork, a staff member of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, during a routine inspection of a "Champ" insect trap used for detecting/monitoring OLFF activity.

OLFF is native to the Mediterranean region and was first observed in North America in 1998 infesting olives trees in landscaping in the Los Angeles area. OLFF has existed with commercial olive orchards in the Mediterranean region for many years. Sonoma County growers may adopt some of the techniques used for control of OLFF in the Mediterranean region in their orchards in the future.

For all practical purposes, the OLFF has become a "pest of general distribution" in the State of California infesting olive fruit throughout the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, and most of the coastal counties in the state.

OLFF is currently listed as an "A" rated pest through the California Department of Food and Agriculture. It is speculated that it will soon be down graded to a "C" rated pest (a pest of general distribution) in the state.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office recently ordered a significant number of trapping materials for OLFF detection. These materials are available to individual growers that wish to conduct monitoring programs. Growers can walk in to our office and pick up the materials necessary.

Good Websites:

California Department of Food and Agriculture (Search on Olive Fruit Fly)

UC Cooperative Extension Integrated Pest Management (Search on Olive Fruit Fly)

WWW.OLIVEOILSOURCE.COM

DIRECT MARKETING

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office held our annual Farm Market Manager meeting on February 4th. There were seven market managers in attendance. Staff members from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Weights and Measures also attended.

Janice Price, head of the Direct Marketing Program with the California Food and Agriculture, was the guest speaker at the meeting. Ms. Price went over the new laws for the Direct Marketing Program that went into effect on January 1, 2002. Ms. Price also explained partnership agreements, load

DIRECT MARKETING CONT.

lists, egg registration, wine sales, and farming practices.

A highlight of the meeting was biologist Cree Morgan's power point presentation of the certified producer's certificate program he has developed. Mr. Morgan's program divides commodity entries into different categories; nursery stock, herbs, fruit, vegetables, and flowers. The program is able to alphabetize the commodities, which will be a tremendous help when biologists are conducting farm and market inspections.

Our clerical staff has been working hard to input the data for the new format. Certificate holders are asked to leave their certificates for a week so they can be re-entered into the database.

There are currently farm markets in Petaluma, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Sonoma, Santa Rosa, Windsor and Cotati. The Cotati Chamber of Commerce is adding the Cotati market this year.

Biologists have started market and farm inspections. The biologists will conduct the majority of their farm inspections during the months of April through September.