



Cutting Edge

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

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EU Carbendazim MRL set at Limit of Determination (0.01mg/kg)

This communication follows the cautionary notice distributed by CGA and CRI during October 2005, advising all growers to refrain from spraying carbendazim on citrus destined for export to the EU market in 2006. At that time growers were informed that there was a very high probability that the EU MRL for carbendazim on citrus would be revoked (i.e. set at LOD = 0.01 mg/kg), which meant fruit sprayed with Carbendazim would not be suitable for the EU market.

A member of EU Pesticide Residue Committee confirmed today that this Committee had discussed the Carbendazim MRL on citrus at length at their meeting held on Friday (9 December 2005) and, taking into account the available data submitted by CGA and CRI and other southern Hemisphere citrus exporting countries and all appropriate methodologies for setting an MRL, have set the Carbendazim MRL on citrus to 0.01 mg/kg. Official notification of this decision is expected to follow shortly.

It was also indicated that the new MRL would be a "provisional" MRL until the end of 2008, whereupon it will become permanent, unless a revision of the MRL was justified based on new appropriate data showing Good Agricultural Practices that result in a lower residue, and that meet all safety requirements. CGA and CRI have already begun the trial work for generating such data. Growers will be informed of the progress of this research in due course, but until further notice are advised to refrain from spraying carbendazim on fruit destined for the EU, as also described in the November edition of the Recommended Usage Restrictions document.

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