



Cutting Edge

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Urgent Cautionary Notice

Carbendazim

Following the October 2005 cautionary notice, advising growers not to use carbendazim (Benomyl, Spotless, Bavistin, Bendazid, Knowin, and any other equivalent product that results in a carbendazim residue) on fruit intended for the EU, the problems with the carbendazim MRL have now extended to some countries outside the EU. Fruit intended for countries that abide by the CODEX MRL system (e.g. Japan and most Far East countries) will be affected by these changes.

During routine checking of the CODEX MRLs, CGA became aware that the carbendazim MRL on citrus was recently, inexplicably and without notification revoked. Further investigation is taking place, but all indications so far lead us to believe that the MRL has been permanently revoked. Consequently, it is necessary to advise all growers, effective immediately, to refrain from spraying carbendazim on citrus destined for export to Japan and Far East markets.

Japan

Through the Recommended Usage Restrictions Document growers were informed that Japan is rolling out a Positive MRL list system, scheduled for implementation (legislation) by May 2006. Under this new system the current proposed

Provisional carbendazim MRL is 3.0ppm on lemons and grapefruit and 7.0ppm for other citrus. However, these MRLs will only be effective once the Positive MRL list system is legislated in Japan (anticipated by May 2006). A delay in the internal legislative process will mean the new MRLs might only become applicable at a later point in time. In the meantime, the MRL that applies is the CODEX MRL and this has now been revoked (i.e. fruit may not have a carbendazim residue).

Middle East

Growers that have already treated citrus with carbendazim could consider sending this fruit to the Middle East, where the applicable MRL is the SA MRL of 5.0ppm.

Far East

Most Far East countries, including the Peoples Republic of China, abide by the CODEX MRL system, in which case fruit treated with carbendazim will be unfit for importation. Again, growers could consider sending such fruit to the Middle East, where the applicable MRL is the SA MRL of 5.0ppm.

For advice on alternative control strategies, growers are invited to contact Tian Schutte 013-7598000 or a member of SASCCON (contact Chris Kellerman 083-2654228).

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