



Cutting Edge/Snykant

RESEARCH NEWS FROM CITRUS RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
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METHOMYL RESIDUE TRIAL RESULTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS FRUIT

Background:

Trials to determine the residue breakdown of Methomyl on citrus fruit in South Africa were initiated in March 2008 on short notice following the emergence of new information from Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD) in the UK that suggested the EU Methomyl Maximum Residue Level on citrus might change to Level of Detection (LoD).

Aim:

The aim of the trials was to determine the residue breakdown curve of Methomyl when used according to the South African Registration (as per label) and to identify the point where, with a high level of confidence, one could be assured that residues were non-detectable. Reaching non-detectable residues will mean fruit sprayed according to GAP would comply with the LoD requirement. This research was also aimed at providing appropriate scientific evidence that would support a revision of the TESCO Nature's Choice PPPL whereby Methomyl use would be included again.

Trials:

Seven trials were initiated using Easy Peelers (3), Oranges (2) and Grapefruit (2), drawn from the Western Cape and Mpumalanga regions. No lemons could be used due to the timing of the trials and the availability of suitable trial sites. Trial sites were selected based on conservative (that would be expected to result in higher residues) GAPs. The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) conducted the residue analysis. SABS is an accredited laboratory (ISO17025).

Results:

No residues were detected after 60 days in all of the trials.

Conclusion:

The results from these trials show that **with an appropriate withholding period (60 days) Methomyl sprays are very unlikely to result in detectable residues.** CGA and Citrus Research International will therefore make the appropriate changes to the *Recommended Usage Restrictions For Plant Protection Products On Southern African Export Citrus*

(RUR) in due course. In keeping with the arrangement to keep the RUR and the TESCO PPPL list aligned, an appeal to AUDAX has been made to update the PPPL list accordingly.

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