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Department of Agricultural Resources

State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

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Adult Mosquito Control Pesticide Label Compliance Policy Pertaining to the Protection of Bees of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

Introduction

New requirements for the protection of bees have been added to the labeling of Anvil 10+10 ULV, a product commonly used for adult mosquito control in Massachusetts, as well as other products registered for adult mosquito control. These requirements have made it necessary to develop a policy that balances the environmental risks to bees from applications made to control adult mosquitoes and the need to protect the public from the threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

New Label Language

The new labeling precautions, with one exception, prohibit applications to blooming crops or weeds *when bees are actively visiting the treatment area*. The exception is when applications are made to prevent or control a threat to public and/or animal health determined by a state, tribal or local health or vector control agency on the basis of documented evidence of disease causing agents in vector mosquitoes or the occurrence of mosquito borne disease in animal or human populations, or if specifically approved by the state or tribe during a natural recovery effort.

Objective

The following policy and parameters as outlined defines the exception for Massachusetts conditions and meets the objective of compliance with these new label changes. In addition, the policy provides a basis for mosquito control activities approved and carried out under the aegis of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB).

This policy utilizes the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) State Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan. The MDPH state State Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan characterizes the severity of risk of arbovirus and probability of human outbreak. The MDPH State Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan can be found at the following link:

http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/arbovirus_surveillance_plan.pdf

Policy

Whether the mosquito control applications are deemed necessary for the purpose of annoyance alleviation or public health, the intent of the labeling is to ensure that mosquito control professionals take into account bee activity. Honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bees do not forage at night or during very cool weather. Insecticides applied during the day at optimal temperatures inadvertently to melliferous (honey bearing) bloom can cause severe pollinator losses. Therefore, the optimal time to perform mosquito adulticide treatments, whether truck mounted, backpack, mist blower, hydraulic sprayer, etc., should occur after sunset or prior to sunrise, in order to minimize and avoid bee losses. Given that peak flight and ovipositioning behaviors of many mosquito species of concern occur during this interval, such times are ideal to perform adult control applications. More information may be obtained by reviewing the report titled Adult Mosquito Control Intervention Parameters, May 25, 2006 (see link below).

http://www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/docs/Spray_Efficacy_Workgroup.pdf

Therefore, it is the Board's policy that any control intervention targeting adult mosquitoes (aerosol or foliar) shall be documented and commenced no sooner than sunset and conclude no later than sunrise, since bee mortality is not expected during this time interval. Under one exception, the above policy and label restriction is removed under the following conditions.

When targeting species of concern and potential vectors of arbovirus, standard, locally established adult mosquito control efforts--including aerosol and foliar, may commence prior to sunset and continue after sunrise when conditions are appropriate to achieve efficacy and in accord with all other labeling directions and restrictions.

The above exception applies when the following criteria are met:

- When the risk category for the focal area is defined by the MDPH State Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan as level 3 (moderate probability of human outbreak) and the adult mosquito control intervention, either aerosol/space ULV or foliar/barrier application, is approved or requested in writing by the local Board of Health via letter, facsimile, e-mail, etc.; *or*
- When the risk category for the focal area is defined by the MDPH State Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan as level 4 (high probability of human outbreak) or 5 (critical probability of human outbreak); *or*
- When specifically requested or directed by the SRMCB when risk benefit analysis favors the application of pesticides.

Note: The SRMCB can revise this policy as new information becomes available about labeling requirements in order to update and conform to those changes.

Policy approved and voted on August 20, 2007