



# PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION NEWSLETTER

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## MDA AWARDED GRANT TO ESTABLISH PESTICIDE SENSITIVE CROP LOCATOR

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Pesticide Regulation Section (PRS) recently received a U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant. The grant will be used to develop and implement a web-based system for pesticide applicators search for sensitive/specialty crops being grown in areas where they may be applying pesticides. MDA is establishing a voluntary statewide database containing specific information on sensitive/specialty crops produced in Maryland. The information provided by growers would include the name and address of the grower; type of crop/commodity produced; acres of crop grown; and the specific location where each crop is grown.

MDA will contract for the development of a Sensitive Crop Locator website that integrates the data collected into a geographical information system, including geo-coding for each location where sensitive specialty crops are grown.



Pesticide applicators will then have the ability to pull up maps and aerial photographs to search for, locate and identify any sensitive/specialty crops in areas where they will be making pesticide applications. This information will help pesticide applicators identify locations where sensitive crops are grown; protect crops from inadvertent spray drift from neighboring fields, and provide mitigation of food safety risks posed by illegal pesticide residues.

## PREVENTING PESTICIDE DRIFT

In addition to the planned development and implementation of the web based pesticide sensitive crop locator, MDA has developed an informational brochure that details a number of factors that can cause pesticide drift, as well as steps applicators can take to reduce the potential for pesticide drift from the site of application.

The brochure, entitled **Preventing Herbicide Damage To Sensitive Crops**, can be found on the Maryland Department of Agriculture's web site at the following web address:

[http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/pesticide\\_regulation/pesticide\\_info\\_for\\_professionals/index.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/pesticide_regulation/pesticide_info_for_professionals/index.php)

Copies of the brochure are also available by contacting the Pesticide Regulation Section by telephone at (410) 841-5710, Fax at (410) 841-2765,

## LEGISLATION AND REGULATION UPDATE

During the 2010 session of the General Assembly MDA's Pesticide Regulation Section introduced legislation to establish an annual registration fee of \$30 to register each employee of a pest control business, other than certified applicators, who perform pest control services. Each year MDA's PRS processes (issues, deletes, or replaces) an average of 4,778 employee registration cards. In the past, the PRS has been able to cover the costs associated with registered employee identification cards through state General Funds and Special Funds (license, permit and certification fees). However, due to the loss of all General Funds and increasing expenses (printing, mailing and staff) associated with the cards, the fee is needed to cover the costs of the identification cards.

The legislation also established a late fee of \$30 for any license, certificate, or employee registration renewal that is received by MDA more than 30 days after the expiration of the license, certificate, or registration.

Lastly, the legislation revised the language in the current law to require a \$10 fee for **each** certification examination retaken.

The legislation passed during the session and became effective

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October 1, 2010. The PRS drafted and submitted regulations that detail the requirements of the new fees authorized by the new law. The proposed regulations were approved and published in the October 22, 2010 issue of the Maryland Register.

## EPA UPDATES PESTICIDE PRODUCT ACTIONS

**Methyl Parathion** - Effective July 16, 2010, The US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved requests from the registrants to voluntarily cancel all product registrations containing methyl parathion, a restricted use organophosphate insecticide and acaricide used primarily on cotton, corn, and rice, as well as other agricultural crops. This action will terminate the remaining uses of methyl parathion products registered in the United States. The agreement provides the following provisions for the sale and use of methyl parathion products:

- December 31, 2012 – last date for production of methyl parathion for use in the United States.
- August 31, 2013 – last date for sale of end-use products.
- December 31, 2013 – last date for use of methyl parathion products by end users.

**Aldicarb** – EPA and Bayer CropScience have reached an agreement to end the use of the pesticide aldicarb (Trade name Temik) in the United States. Aldicarb is a restricted use pesticide registered for use as a systemic insecticide and nematicide on agricultural crops. The agreement provides the following provisions for the sale and use of aldicarb products:

- December 31, 2011 – last date of use on citrus and potatoes.
- December 31, 2014 – last date of sale by Bayer CropScience.
- December 31, 2016 – last date of sale by distributors to the end users.

- August 31, 2018 – last date of use by end users on any remaining crop (cotton, dry beans, peanuts, soybeans, sugar beets, and sweet potatoes).

**Endosulfan** – EPA has announced it will terminate all uses of the insecticide endosulfan because it can pose unacceptable health risks and can persist in the environment. Endosulfan is an organochlorine insecticide currently registered for use on a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, cotton and ornamental plants. It has no residential uses and is sold under the trade name Thionex. By the end of this year product labels of endosulfan will include a table showing the exact dates when it will become unlawful to use the product on the labeled crops. They are as follows:

**Group A:** Use ends July 31, 2012

- Almond, apricot, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, celery (non-Arizona), citrus (non-bearing), collard greens, dry bean, dry peas, eggplant, filbert, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, nectarine (California only), macadamia, plum and prune, poplars grown for pulp and timber, strawberry (annual), sweet potato, tart cherry, turnip, walnut, ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, any other uses on product labels not listed above or in Group B, C, D, E, or F.

**Group B:** Use ends July 31, 2012

- Cabbage, celery (Arizona only), cotton, cucumbers, lettuce, summer melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon), summer squash, tobacco, and stone fruits not listed in Group A, including nectarines (non-California), peaches, and sweet cherry.

**Group C:** Use ends July 31, 2013

- Pear.

**Group D:** Use ends July 31, 2014

- Uses in Florida only: Apple, blueberry, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, sweet corn, tomato, and winter squash.

## EPA WEB-DISTRIBUTED LABELING PILOT

As part of a series of initiatives to improve pesticide labeling, EPA is working with external stake holders to design a new system for delivering product labeling to pesticide users. To that end, EPA has invited organizations to work with the agency to conduct a "User Acceptance Pilot" to research the extent to which pesticide users would accept a system requiring them to obtain certain parts of the traditional pesticide label via the internet. This web-distributed labeling system, initially focusing on



agricultural and industrial pesticides, will provide simplified container labels and rapid distribution of up-to-date product labeling. EPA expects to see the following benefits from this system:

- Faster access to new pesticide uses
- Quicker implementation of public health and environmental protection measures
- Improved compliance with label directions, and
- Lower costs for industry and EPA.

## PRS LICENSING, CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

During Fiscal Year 2010, the PRS has issued the following:

Commercial business licenses	1,505
Not-For-Hire business licenses	175
Commercial applicator certificates	2,997
Public agency applicator certificates	1,053
Public Agency permits	313
Dealer permits	145

In addition, PRS held 18 certification examination session during which a total of 825 individuals took one or more certification exams. During the 18 examination sessions PRS staff administered, a total of 2,130 examinations.

## PRS USE INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

During 2010, the PRS has completed the following activities:

Business Inspections	542
Business with violations	187
Most frequently cited violations	
Record keeping	137
Vehicle identification	25
Unregistered employees	20
No anti-siphon device	15
No customer info	17
Pesticide Dealer Permits	65
Consumer complaint investigations	31
Pesticide Use Observations	76
Market place inspections	23
Pesticide producer inspections	22
In addition, the PRS issued the following enforcement actions:	
Field notices	18
Notices of warning	35
Civil penalties	9
totaling	\$9,500

## BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG UPDATE

The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), a native of Asia, is emerging as a major nuisance to homeowners and a devastating pest to orchardists and potentially to soybean growers in

Maryland. Residents across Maryland are reporting large numbers of the insect in and around their homes and gardens and are seeking relief. The Maryland Department of Agriculture recommends contacting the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) to learn more about the stink bug and ways to exclude them from buildings before contacting a licensed pest control company. Farmers will want to work with their University of Maryland Extension (UME) agents and crop advisors to devise strategies to control the stink bug and limit impact on other beneficial



insects. The stink bug does not bite or sting and can't harm humans or homes.

“These particular stink bugs are fairly new to Maryland and are making themselves known to residents and farmers in large numbers and in unpleasant ways,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “While this is not a regulated pest for which MDA is able to run a control program, we do want to point people in the right direction for information and assistance. The University of Maryland Extension’s Home and Garden Information Center is the best source of information for non-farming residents and backyard gardeners. While the University of Maryland Extension along with other research institutions are working to find solutions for farmers, there is currently no quick answer to control this new pest in

agricultural settings. It is very trying for many farmers who have seen significant crop losses this year”.

Native to Asia, the brown marmorated stink bug was first identified in Allentown, PA in 2001, though sightings may date back to 1996. Many sources of information maintain that it is just a nuisance pest and mostly to home owners, but not to commercial fruit or vegetable growers. That has all changed this year in Maryland with significant damage to commercial growers. It is a significant pest of fruit trees such as apples and peaches, and also to legumes such as soybeans, with extreme damage being reported in Western and Central Maryland orchards for the first time this year. Many backyard gardeners have noticed the stink bug on tomatoes, peppers, and raspberries for example. A number of tree species and ornamental plants also serve as hosts.

According to the HGIC, the brown marmorated stink bug adults emerge from overwintering sites during late May through the beginning of June. They mate and lay eggs from June through August and probably into September. The eggs then hatch into small black and red nymphs that go through five molts throughout July and August. Adults begin to show up in mid-August. Their flights for overwintering sites start in mid-September and continue through October. The insects will start heading indoors to over winter as the weather cools. For homeowners, the HGIC recommends preventing the insect from coming in the home by sealing up cracks with caulk, using weather stripping around doors and windows, removing window air conditioners and closing all possible entry points. Once the insect is indoors, residents can vacuum them up and place the vacuum bag in an outdoor trash receptacle. It should be noted that if many of the stink bugs are squashed or pulled into a vacuum cleaner, their odor can be quite strong.

Currently, there are no chemical recommendations available for home use to control brown marmorated

stink bug populations. Because these pests are so difficult to control, there have been instances in other states in which pesticides not intended for residential applications have been improperly used or applied at greater rates than the label allows. While controlling these insects is challenging, consumers should never use, or allow anyone else to use, a pesticide indoors that is intended for outdoor use, as indicated on the label. Using the wrong pesticide or using it incorrectly can cause illness to people and pets. It can also make homes unsafe to live in – and may not solve the pest problem. For heavy infestations outdoors, contact a pest control professional.

## EPA REQUIRES NEW SAFETY MEASURES FOR SOIL FUMIGANTS

Following re-registration reviews of soil fumigants, EPA is requiring new safety measures for the following soil fumigants: chloropicrin, dazomet, metam sodium/potassium, and ethyl bromide. These safety measures are being required to mitigate risks and increase protection for agricultural workers, bystanders and people who live, work, or otherwise spend time near fields that are fumigated. Due to their volatile nature, soil fumigants have the potential to pose risk concerns to people involved in the application, workers who re-enter fields that have been fumigated and people who may be near the treated area. The mitigation measures EPA is requiring include:

- Worker protections;
- Fumigant management plans;
- Stewardship and training programs;
- Good agricultural practices;
- Buffer zones;
- Posting requirements; and
- Emergency preparedness and response measures

Detailed information on the new requirements for soil fumigants, including Specific Mitigation Measures Fact Sheets, can be found on EPA's website "Soil Fumigation Toolbox" at the following site:

[http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/soil_fumigants/)

## PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION REMINDERS

- **Employee Registration and Notice of Termination** – Make sure to register with MDA's PRS each employee who performs pest control services (inspections and service work). When registering an employee, be sure to submit a 1 X 1 inch color photograph of the employee. Also, when a registered employee leaves your employment make every effort to obtain their MDA registered employee photo ID card and return it to MDA's PRS with a note stating the date the employee left your firm or agency. If the employee leaves without returning their card **make sure you notify the PRS** that the employee is no longer employed by your firm or agency. This will be extremely important for commercial firms due to the new fee for registered employee renewals.
- **Customer Information** – Make sure that your Customer Information Documents are updated. If you have added and are using new pesticide products that do not appear on your currently approved MDA/PRS Customer Information Document, you must revise your document and send it to MDA/PRS for approval before it can be distributed to your customers.
- **Record Keeping** – Incomplete records continue to be the most frequently cited violation. It is extremely important employees make and maintain complete pesticide application, pest inspection and pest identification records.

## BEST WISHES FROM THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION FOR THE COMING HOLIDAY SEASON

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