

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 15 1991

OFFICE OF  
PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Section 18 - Specific Exemptions for Use of Oxyfluorfen  
(Goal) For Chemical Pruning (Cane Suppression) of  
Primocanes in Raspberries Grown in Oregon and  
Washington --ACTION MEMORANDUM --

**FROM:** Anne E. Lindsay, Director  
Registration Division

*Anne E. Lindsay*

**TO:** Douglas D. Campt, Director  
Office of Pesticide Programs

**I. APPLICANTS' REQUEST:**

**APPLICANTS:** Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Washington Department of Agriculture

**CHEMICAL:** Oxyfluorfen

**PRODUCT:** Goal 1.6E Herbicide, EPA Reg. No.  
707-174, manufactured by Rohm and  
Haas Company

**SITE:** Raspberries

**PEST:** Raspberry primocanes

**RATE:** At a rate of 1 to 4 pints of product  
(0.2 to 0.8 lbs. a.i.) per broadcast acre per  
application, with a maximum of 6 pints of  
product (1.2 lbs. a.i.) per broadcast acre per  
season.

**NO. OF APPL:** One or two ground applications made in a  
minimum of 50 gallons of water/acre, applied  
to primocanes in a 3-foot band over the row.  
A 50-day PHI will be observed.

ACREAGE: OR: 4,600 acres in Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Linn, Benton, Polk, Lane, Marion, Douglas, and Yamhill Counties  
WA: 5,200 acres in counties west of the Cascade mountains

POUNDAGE: OR: approximately 1,035 gallons of product  
WA: approximately 1,170 gallons of product

USE-SEASON: OR: March 1, 1991 through May 15, 1991  
WA: March 1, 1991 to June 1, 1991

EMERGENCY/REG. ALT.: In the past, dinoseb was used by growers in Oregon and Washington for chemical pruning of raspberry primocanes. Since the suspension of dinoseb in October of 1986, extension personnel, processor and grower organizations, and private agricultural firms have been searching for economical and efficacious alternatives. Existing supplies of dinoseb have now been completely exhausted. According to the Applicants, research data show that oxyfluorfen provides the same benefits afforded by dinoseb.

Chemical pruning of raspberry primocanes is important for two reasons. First, mechanical harvesting, which now accounts for approximately 90% of harvested raspberries, requires that growth at the plant base be removed for proper operation of harvester catch plates which "catch" the falling fruit. Secondly, pruning of early season vegetative growth diverts nutrients to fruit buds and increases raspberry yields. The Applicants estimate that without an effective herbicide for chemical pruning of primocanes, growers will lose 1.2 to 1.9 tons or more of raspberries per acre.

Both Oregon and Washington have been granted 24(c) registrations for use of monourea sulfuric acid (Enquik) to suppress raspberry primocanes. However, this chemical is ineffective for the following reasons. Enquik's activity is very temperature-dependent. Ambient temperatures are often not conducive to the degree of activity required to suppress primocanes. In addition, Enquik often cripples the primocanes rather than suppressing them. These crippled canes continue to be a photosynthetic sink, competing with the berries for nutrients and obstructing machine harvesting operations.

According to the Applicants, hand pruning is not a realistic alternative. Pruning crews are not generally available in April and May. Also, the cost of labor for a one time removal of new vegetative canes would be prohibitive, approximately \$180 per acre. The additional costs of removing shoots up to 1.5 feet long at the bases of fruiting canes cannot be accurately estimated.

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ECONOMICS: Oregon estimates that with the use of oxyfluorfen, growers can expect average yields of 6,000 pounds of raspberries per acre. The total value of Oregon's raspberry crop is expected to be \$13.8 million. Without the use of oxyfluorfen, growers expect yield reductions of between 1.2 and 1.9 tons of raspberries per acre. Assuming an average price of \$0.50 per pound and reduced yields of 1.2 tons per acre, economic losses in excess of \$5.5 million are expected to occur over the entire 4,600 acres.

Washington estimates that yields will be reduced as much as 45% without an effective chemical means of primocane suppression. In 1989, raspberry yields in Washington averaged 5900 pounds per acre with an average price of \$0.52 per pound. Based on these figures, yield reductions of 45% could result in economic losses of approximately \$1,380 per acre or \$7.2 million over the entire 5,200 acres.

## II. BACKGROUND:

This is the second year this use of oxyfluorfen has been requested under section 18 of FIFRA. Specific exemptions for use of oxyfluorfen on raspberries were granted to both Oregon and Washington in March, 1990.

### Reregistration/Special Review considerations

Oxyfluorfen is a List B chemical, which is currently undergoing Phase IV review. The Phase IV Data-Call-In for oxyfluorfen is scheduled for March or April, 1991.

A Special Review of oxyfluorfen was completed in January of 1982. The review was initiated due to concerns over contamination of oxyfluorfen with perchloroethylene (PCE), a carcinogen. A decision was made to continue use of the herbicide subject to restriction of the contaminant PCE (not to exceed 200 ppm) in the formulated product.

### Progress towards registration

IR-4 project #3486 has been initiated to generate data in support of a tolerance for residues of oxyfluorfen in or on raspberries. The 1989 field data from Oregon have been sent to IR-4 headquarters for analysis.

## III. EPA EVALUATION:

### BEAD Review

BEAD reviewed the 1990 requests from Oregon and Washington and concluded that an urgent, non-routine situation exists, since

dinoseb is no longer available for use. BEAD also concluded that substantial yield and harvesting losses are expected to occur without an adequate alternative. There are no registered alternatives for this use, except Enquik, which is registered under section 24(c) for use in Oregon and Washington. BEAD agreed with the Applicants' assertion that Enquik is not an effective alternative to dinoseb, due to its temperature sensitivity. Enquik is only effective when the weather is unusually warm at the time of first treatment. Applications of Enquik when the weather is too cold may actually be counterproductive. BEAD also agreed with the Applicants' assertion that hand-pruning of primocanes was not an economically feasible alternative to chemical control.

According to BEAD's estimates, growers can expect yield reductions as high as 2 tons per acre if an effective alternative to dinoseb is not found. Even the more conservative loss estimate of 1.2 tons per acre in Oregon's submission would cause a revenue loss of \$1,200 per acre, roughly equivalent to 40% of the 5 year average per acre revenue of \$2,975. Such a loss would be well outside the "normal" range in profitability.

#### Residue Chemistry Review

Dietary Exposure Branch reviewed this year's request from Oregon and concluded that residues of oxyfluorfen and its metabolites containing the diphenyl ether linkage are not expected to exceed 0.05 ppm in or on raspberries as a result of the proposed use. Residues in meat, milk, poultry, and eggs are not expected to result, since no animal feed items are involved. Adequate methodology for enforcement purposes may be found in PAM II, and reference standards are available from the Pesticides and Industrial Chemicals Repository at RTP, N.C.

#### Toxicological Review

Toxicology Branch I (TOX) reviewed this request for use of oxyfluorfen on raspberries and concluded that data are adequate to support the proposed use under an emergency exemption.

HED has established an RfD for oxyfluorfen of 0.003 mg/kg/day, based on the NOEL of 0.3 mg/kg/day from a 20-month mouse feeding study with an uncertainty factor of 100. Existing uses of oxyfluorfen result in a TMRC (Theoretical Maximum Residue Contribution) of 0.000895 mg/kg/day for the overall U.S. population, which utilizes 29.8% of the RfD. The proposed use on raspberries would increase the TMRC by 0.00000014 mg/kg/day and result in a negligible increase in RfD utilization. The only DRES population subgroup with a TMRC in excess of the RfD is non-nursing infants, less than 1 year old. The TMRC for this group is 0.004537 mg/kg/day, which utilizes 151% of the RfD. A DRES analysis incorporating available anticipated residue and percent

crop treated data estimated an ARC (Anticipated Residue Contribution) for this subgroup of 0.000027 mg/kg/day, which utilizes only 0.9% of the RfD. The proposed use on raspberries is not expected to measurably increase dietary exposure to oxyfluorfen for infants, since infant consumption of raspberries is negligible.

HED's Peer Review Committee has classified oxyfluorfen as a Group C (possible human) carcinogen with an upper bound potency estimate ( $Q_1^*$ ), in human equivalents, of  $1.28 \times 10^{-1}$  (mg/kg/day)<sup>1</sup>. TOX deferred to the Science Analysis and Coordination Branch (SACB) and the Occupational and Residential Exposure Branch (OREB) for dietary and non-dietary exposure analyses, respectively. The results of these analyses are discussed below.

I. Dietary Risk Assessment:

SACB has previously estimated a lifetime dietary risk of  $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$  from existing uses of oxyfluorfen, based on tolerance level residues and assuming 100 percent of the registered crops are treated. SACB has also completed a revised risk assessment, which incorporates available anticipated residue and percent crop treated information. SACB's revised lifetime dietary carcinogenic risk estimate is  $1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ . Assuming a residue level of 0.05 ppm in raspberries, the proposed use would result in a lifetime dietary carcinogenic risk of  $1.8 \times 10^{-8}$ .

II. Occupational Exposure Assessment:

OREB reviewed Oregon's request and provided TOX Branch with estimates of exposure to oxyfluorfen for mixers, loaders, and applicators from the proposed use on raspberries. Based on OREB's exposure estimates, TOX Branch calculated the following worker carcinogenic risks from dermal and inhalation exposure:

	<u>Dermal Carcinogenic Risk</u>	<u>Inhalation Carcinogenic Risk</u>	<u>Total Carcinogenic Risk</u>
Mixer/Loader *	$4.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.5 \times 10^{-8}$
Mixer/Loader **	$5.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.6 \times 10^{-6}$
Applicator	$7.7 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$
M/L + Appl. *	$1.2 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-7}$
M/L + Appl. **	$5.6 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.9 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.6 \times 10^{-6}$

\* Mixer/loader wearing long sleeve shirt, hat, long pants, work footwear and gloves.

\*\* Mixer/loader wearing short sleeve shirt, long pants and work footwear (no gloves).

The total occupational carcinogenic risk to workers who mix/load and apply oxyfluorfen under this specific exemption is estimated to be on the order of  $10^{-7}$ , provided protective clothing (long sleeve shirt, hat, long pants, work footwear, and chemical resistant gloves) is worn by workers involved in the mixing and loading of oxyfluorfen. The mailgrams authorizing this use will require mixer/loaders to use protective clothing.

#### Ecological Effects Review/Environmental Fate Review

EEB reviewed the 1990 requests from Oregon and Washington and concluded that the proposed use is not expected to pose an unreasonable risk of adverse effects on birds, mammals, or aquatic organisms, but does pose a risk to non-target plant species. Although there are no endangered plant species in Washington, one endangered plant, Bradshaw's lomatium, occurs in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. EEB recommended that applications of oxyfluorfen be prohibited within 100 yards of "all lowland prairie communities, all wetlands, and all other aquatic habitats including drainage courses, and other water ways" in Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, and Polk counties to minimize risk of exposure of this endangered plant. This restriction was imposed as a condition of Oregon's 1990 specific exemption for the use of oxyfluorfen on raspberries.

The Portland office of the USFWS reviewed a similar use of oxyfluorfen on grasses grown for seed in Oregon and concluded that the existing environmental hazards statements on the Goal 1.6E label should be adequate to protect Bradshaw's lomatium without the need to impose buffer zones in the counties where it is present. However, USFWS noted that, while wet prairie plant communities have become rare in the Willamette Valley due to agriculture and development, small remnant patches persist along fence rows, roadsides, and drainage courses. These communities contain not only the endangered plant, Bradshaw's lomatium, but also other plants (Aster curtis, Erigeron decumbens, etc.) which, although they are not federally listed endangered plants at this time, share the same problems and threats as the lomatium and would also be susceptible to Goal. USFWS, therefore, recommended that a label statement such as the one below be included on Oregon's section 18 labels as a discretionary conservation measure:

Due to the close proximity of native prairie remnants to agricultural areas and the potential for these areas to be adversely affected by herbicides through drift or possible runoff/soil movement, it is recommended that Goal 1.6E herbicide not be applied directly to native prairie habitats in Benton, Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties of Oregon.

The mailgram authorizing this use in Oregon will require this statement to appear on the section 18 label.

Oxyfluorfen does not appear on EFGWB's list of chemicals with ground water concerns.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Washington Department of Agriculture be granted specific exemptions for use of oxyfluorfen for chemical pruning of raspberry primocanes. This recommendation is based on the following:

1. Dinoseb has been used in the past for chemical pruning of raspberry primocanes. Dinoseb was suspended in 1986, and existing supplies are now exhausted. There are no other effective registered alternatives available for use.
2. Without the use of oxyfluorfen this season, growers are expected to suffer significant economic losses of approximately \$1,200 per acre or \$5.5 million over the entire 4,600 acres in Oregon and \$6.2 million over the entire 5,200 acres in Washington.
3. Residues of oxyfluorfen are not expected to exceed 0.05 ppm in or on raspberries as a result of the proposed use. This level can be toxicologically supported. Existing uses of oxyfluorfen utilize 29.8% of the RfD for the overall U.S. population and 151% (or 0.9% based on available anticipated residue and percent crop treated information) of the RfD for non-nursing infants. The proposed use on raspberries would result in a negligible increase in dietary exposure for the U.S. population and all of the DRES population subgroups.

Existing uses of oxyfluorfen result in a lifetime dietary carcinogenic risk of  $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$ , based on tolerance level residues, and  $1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ , based on available anticipated residue and percent crop treated data. The proposed use on raspberries would result in a negligible increase in risk ( $10^{-8}$ ).

The total occupational carcinogenic risk to workers who mix/load and apply oxyfluorfen under this specific exemption is estimated to be on the order of  $10^{-7}$ , provided protective clothing (long sleeve shirt, hat, long pants, work footwear, and chemical resistant gloves) is worn by workers involved in the mixing and loading of oxyfluorfen.

4. The proposed use should not pose an unreasonable risk of adverse effects on non-target birds, mammals, or aquatic organisms. The use does pose a risk of adverse effects on

the endangered plant, Bradshaw's lomatium, found in certain counties in Oregon. Existing Goal label statements and the inclusion of a precautionary statement recommended by the Oregon office of the USFWS should be adequate to protect this species.

5. Progress toward registration of the proposed use appears to have been made. An IR-4 project is underway to collect data in support of a permanent raspberry tolerance. Data from 1989 field trials in Oregon have been submitted to an IR-4 laboratory for analysis.

Approve: Dayton A. Carty

Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: MAR 7 1991