

Dinoseb - Regulatory Position

As part of the ongoing evaluation of dinoseb, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada will not extend the temporary registration of this herbicide for early cane control in raspberries in British Columbia beyond the 1993 growing season.

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Background

Note to CAPCO C89-06, dated 31 March 1989 provided an update on the regulatory status of dinoseb. It was noted that applicators were considered to be exposed to significant health risks in handling dinoseb products.

Note to CAPCO C90-01, dated 14 February 1990, outlined the decision to terminate the registration of non-essential uses of this herbicide and to retain the two critical need uses: early cane control in raspberries in British Columbia and weed control in peas and beans in British Columbia and the Atlantic provinces.

Since the more recent Note to CAPCO was issued, information on the use of dinoseb has been gathered and assessed. This information indicates early cane control in raspberries in British Columbia can no longer be considered an essential use.

Essential Use

Early cane control in raspberries was identified in Note to CAPCO C90-01 as an essential use of dinoseb because there were no feasible alternatives. Without dinoseb, the only means of controlling early canes was with hand hoeing up to 5 times a season. This method was not economically feasible, due to the high cost and limited supply of labour. It was recognized that if dinoseb was not available for cane control there could be a serious impact on the local economy.

Level of Use

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada personnel in the British Columbia and Atlantic regions were asked to determine the extent of dinoseb use in cane control in raspberries and weed control in peas and beans.

The information gathered indicated that the use of dinoseb for early cane control in raspberries had decreased to the point where only 15% of raspberry fields were treated with dinoseb in 1991.

The use of dinoseb in peas and beans was still considered significant.

Alternatives

The herbicide Goal - oxyfluorfen (Pest Control Product registration number 18777) has been found to be an alternative product for cane control in raspberries. Goal has been registered for use on raspberries since 1991 and has been found to be effective in burning back the early canes in raspberries.

No acceptable alternative has been registered for dinoseb in peas and beans at this time. However, researchers are examining several options.

Regulatory Decision

Based on the above information, the decision was taken not to extend the use of dinoseb in raspberries past the 1993 growing season. The registrants of this product were advised to formulate or package only sufficient quantities of dinoseb, which had the raspberry use on the label, to satisfy the need for the 1993 growing season only.

All risk reduction measures, as outlined in Note to CAPCO C90-01, will continue to be enforced in peas and beans. This use will continue to be considered an “essential use”. However, the level of use and the search for alternative products will be monitored and appropriate future regulatory actions will be initiated.

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