

Chemical Control/New Products

PESTICIDES OF INTEREST TO NORTHWESTERN U.S. DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT
PRODUCERS

Mike Willett, Hugh W. Ewart and James R. Cranney Jr.
Northwest Horticultural Council, Yakima, WA

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Continued implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), coupled with increasingly restrictive calculation of agricultural worker reentry intervals for the organophosphate (OP) insecticides, has led fruit growers to take a more active interest in EPA approval of agricultural chemicals to replace uses now covered by OPs. While not an entirely new exercise, this heightened interest in alternative insecticides is partnered with ongoing industry interest in the timely registration of exceptionally useful fungicides, bactericides and plant growth regulators.

The Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) and U.S. Apple Association (USApple) have taken the lead in identifying these needs at the national level but have enjoyed substantial collaboration with regional land grant university faculty who identified promising alternatives from their research programs. In particular, the comprehensive lists developed by Dr. Helmut Riedl and Rick Hilton of Oregon State University, provided in response to a NHC request, furnished the basis for this effort. The insecticide/acaricide portion of the database has been included in the western apple pest management strategic plan recently completed as part of a multi-commodity national effort by the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy.

An even smaller subset, consisting of potentially promising pesticides of near term importance, was winnowed from the database for discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this year. The list of potentially promising pesticides identified in a November 2000 meeting with EPA will be reviewed.