



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE – BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
LESTER SPELL, JR., D.V.M., COMMISSIONER
MIKE TAGERT, DIRECTOR

Contact: Mike Tagert, Director, Bureau of Plant Industry
Phone: (662) 325-3390
E-mail: MikeT@mdac.state.ms.us

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Spell announces Section 18s on products for horticultural pests

Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner Lester Spell announced that his request for emergency exemptions on products for pests of horticultural crops and honey bees has been granted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The products receiving emergency exemptions under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) are:

- **Capture 2EC** from FMC Corporation, **Tundra Insecticide** from Agrilience and **Bifenture 2EC** from United Phosphorus. These products contain bifenthrin and protect sweet potatoes. The exemption expires Sept. 30.
- **Indar 75 WSP** from Dow AgroSciences, which contains fenbuconazole, protects blueberries. The exemption expires Aug. 31.
- **ApiLife VAR** from Chemicals LAIF, which contains thymol, eucalyptus oil and L-menthol, is used to protect honey bees. The exemption expires March 15, 2007.

“This is welcome news for producers of sweet potatoes and blueberries, and for beekeepers,” Spell said. “Producers must be able to control pests of these important commodities to have a successful crop.”

Products containing bifenthrin can be used to control soil beetles that cause blemishes or discoloration in sweet potatoes. Fenbuconazole products can be used to kill the fungus *Monilinia vacinii-corymbosi* responsible for mummy berry disease in blueberries. **ApiLife VAR** is a product used by beekeepers to suppress varroa mites in honey bee hives.

Mississippi has more than 16,500 acres of sweet potatoes and 2,000 acres of blueberries in commercial production. State beekeepers produce between 1 million and 1.3 million pounds of honey, annually.

The department has authority under Section 18 of FIFRA to obtain an exemption from EPA for a nonlabeled use of a pesticide if significant losses of an agricultural commodity are likely and alternative, labeled products are not available or effective. The Bureau of Plant Industry has responsibility for administration of the exemptions. Producers can contact the Bureau at (662) 325-3390 for more information.

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