

PLANT INDUSTRY NEWS

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MS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE - CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER - JOHN G. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR

Environmental Protection Agency Approves New Insecticide for Mississippi Cotton Farmers

By Stacey Swain

Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith, announced on June 14, 2012, approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of an emergency exemption that will help farmers in the Mississippi Delta control tarnished plant bugs in cotton. The tarnished plant bug has become one of the most damaging pests of cotton in recent years, responsible for an estimated \$81 million in combined input costs and yield losses in the Mississippi Delta in 2011.

Tarnished plant bugs typically feed directly on pinhead squares, causing the small squares to turn yellow to dark brown, dry up, and finally fall

from the plant in a matter of days. When plant bugs feed on bolls, the injuries appear as small, dark sunken spots on the outside of the boll. Internal damage appears as brownish discoloration on and near the developing seeds.

The product receiving an emergency exemption under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) is Transform™ WG manufactured by Dow AgroSciences. Transform contains the active ingredient sulfoxaflor and can be applied according to label directions, restrictions, and precautions in the following counties: Adams, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Desoto, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Bureau of Plant Industry has authority under Section 18 of FIFRA to obtain an exemption from EPA for a non-labeled use of a pesticide if significant losses of an agricultural commodity are likely and alternative, labeled products are not available or effective.

Contact Tommy McDaniel at (662) 325-7763 for additional information regarding Section 18 emergency exemptions.

Stacey Swain is Communication and
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Tarnished Plant Bug
Photo by Scott Bauer, USDA-ARS



Boll Damage
Photo by Barry Freeman,
Auburn University

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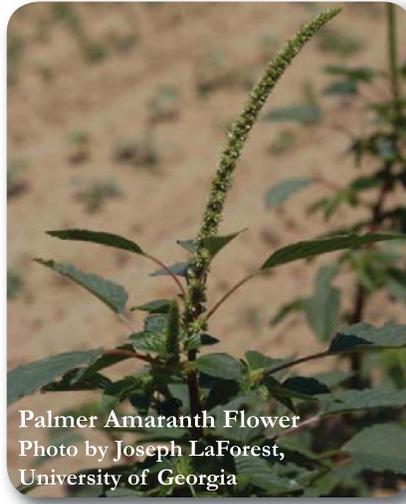
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Herbicide Approved for Mississippi Peanut Growers

By Stacey Swain

Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith, has announced approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of a Special Local Needs 24(c) Label for Gramoxone® SL 2.0 to help Mississippi peanut growers control the highly problematic weed, palmer amaranth. Due to its ability to grow to considerable sizes and dominate large fields quickly, excessive growth of palmer amaranth can make peanuts difficult to harvest and result in considerable yield losses.

Gramoxone, manufactured by Syngenta Crop Protection, is registered for use on other crops in Mississippi; however, a special local needs reg-



Palmer Amaranth Flower
Photo by Joseph LaForest,
University of Georgia

istration under 24(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act was needed to allow its use on peanuts. Gramoxone contains the active ingredient Paraquat Dichloride and may be applied to peanuts according to label directions, restrictions, and precautions with a ropewick/carpet type applicator.

Contact Zack Chesser, Bureau of Plant Industry Branch Director of Registrations, at (662) 325-6629 for additional information regarding special local needs 24(c) pesticide registrations in Mississippi.

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Tommy McDaniel-Pesticide Division Director
Fabian Watts-Seed Division Director

Properly Disposing of Treated Seed

By Fabian Watts

Given that a large amount of agricultural seed has been treated with pesticides, it is very important to safely handle excess seed. Whether choosing to store, return, or dispose of pesticide-treated seed, following the proper guidelines can help to prevent treated seed from entering the grain supply.

As you finish planting this spring, contact your seed company or dealer to learn more about their policies and recommendations. Some companies may accept returns or help you store seed until next year, while other companies may offer guidelines on how to properly dispose of them.

If disposing of small quantities of treated seed, consider planting them in fallow areas of your farm or wildlife food plot. Because some seed treatments may be hazardous to wildlife, always remember to plant seed according to the instructions found on the seed bag, using acceptable seeding rates, and plant-

ing at depths greater than one inch. Also, never leave treated seed lying on the ground. The seed should either be covered or removed from the area.

Other methods for disposal of larger quantities of treated seed include disposal at an approved municipal landfill, use as a fuel source, incineration by a waste management facility, or ethanol production. Before one of these methods is chosen, contact the facility to determine if it can accept treated seed.

In addition to these guidelines, always consult with the appropriate authorities to ensure that you are in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations.

Contact Fabian Watts at (662) 325-7707 for additional information regarding proper disposal of pesticide-treated seed or visit the National Pesticide Information Center at <http://npic.orst.edu> for more information.

Fabian Watts is Director, Seed Division.

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Understanding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

By Tracy Tompkins, P.E. and
Laura T. Vollar

Pesticide General Permit: Where do I fit in?

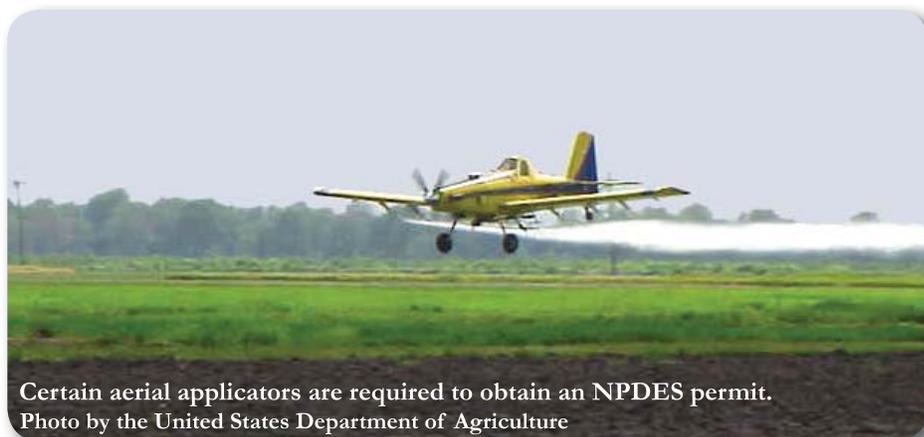
The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a permitting program within the United States Environmental Protection Agency. As part of this program, a Pesticide General Permit (PGP) is required for certain point source discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of biological pesticides and chemical pesticides that leave a residue. The PGP covers the following use patterns: mosquito and other flying insect pest control; weed and algae control; animal pest control; and forest canopy pest control.

In Mississippi, the permitting agency is the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). While everyone is automatically covered by an MDEQ permit, thresholds exist for “Decision-Makers” of Large Entities to determine whether or not they need to complete a Pesticide Notice of Intent (PNOI) and Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP). Decision-makers are asked not to submit either of these items unless requested by MDEQ.

I. I am a “For Hire” Pesticide Applicator. What do I have to do?

A. Easy-Reference Checklist: You are required to follow the label (the PNOI & PDMP are **NOT** required) and provide the following documentation:

- (1) pesticide application dates and times;
- (2) brand name of pesticide, the EPA registration number, and dosage used;
- * Use lowest effective amount of pesticides needed to control pests while remaining in compliance



Certain aerial applicators are required to obtain an NPDES permit.
Photo by the United States Department of Agriculture

with the label.

- (3) location of application site;
- (4) post-application surveillance and spot check;
- (5) number of acres or linear feet treated;
- (6) temperature, wind speed, and direction at time of application; and
- (7) the annual inspection of aircraft maintenance and/or equipment cleaning, calibration, and repairs.

B. Detailed-Reference Checklist

Minimize Pesticide Discharges to Waters of the State: To meet the required technology based effluent limitations, you must implement site-specific control measures that minimize discharges of pesticides to waters of the state, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) if determined by a decision-maker, applicators must use the lowest effective amount and frequency of pesticide products determined by the decision-maker as necessary to control the target pest, using equipment and applica-

tion procedures appropriate for the task, being consistent with product label application rates authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and reducing the potential for the development of pest resistance, per application;

- (2) if the decision-maker does not determine the lowest effective amount and frequency of pesticide products necessary to control the target pest, the applicator must determine the lowest effective amount and frequency for the task, being consistent with product label application rates authorized under FIFRA, and reducing the potential for development of pest resistance, per application;
 - (3) applicators must perform regular maintenance activities to reduce leaks, spills, or other unintended discharges;
 - (4) applicators must maintain pesticide application equipment in proper operating condition by calibrating, cleaning, and repairing such equipment on a regular basis;
- Understanding NPDES, continued on page 4**

Understanding NPDES, *continued from page 3*

- (5) applicators must assess weather conditions to ensure the application is consistent with applicable requirements; and
- (6) if a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP) has been developed by a decision-maker for a project, the applicator must comply with the appropriate requirements of the plan, being consistent with the requirements and conditions of the permit.

Site Monitoring: You must monitor the amount of pesticide being applied to ensure that the lowest amount to effectively control the pest is being used. You must also monitor activities to ensure that regular maintenance of application equipment is being accomplished. To keep application equipment in proper operating condition, it must be calibrated, cleaned, and repaired on a regular basis. These types of maintenance activities are to be documented.

You are required to conduct and document spot checks in application areas for possible adverse incidents, including, but not limited to, death or distress of non-target organisms and disruption of wildlife habitat, recreational, or municipal

water use. Any post-application surveillance or efficacy check that is conducted must also be documented

Record Keeping: You must keep up-to-date written records as required in this permit. These records must be accurate, complete, and sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of this permit and include a copy of the permit (an electronic copy is also acceptable).

II. I am a Decision-Maker for a Large Entity, but I do not surpass any of the thresholds. What do I have to do?

You are covered by the Permit, but do not have to complete the PNOI or PDMP; however, you are responsible for all appropriate conditions of the permit. If you think you may surpass the thresholds at some point, you need to complete the PNOI and PDMP before applying pesticides. The permit identifies both decision-makers and applicators associated with any pesticide applications as having joint and severable responsibility for compli-

ance with the permit.

III. I am a Decision-Maker for a Large Entity and will surpass the threshold. What do I have to do?

You are covered by the Permit and need to complete a PNOI and develop and implement a PDMP. You **DO NOT** submit neither the PNOI nor the PDMP unless requested by MDEQ. You are also required to complete, but **NOT** submit Annual Reports and maintain Pesticide Application Records. As indicated above, along with any contract Applicator, you have joint and severable responsibility for compliance with the permit

Contact Tracy Tomkins at (601) 961-5622 or Tracy.Tomkins@deg.state.ms.us with questions or comments regarding the information outlined above.

Tracy Tomkins, P.E., is Chief, Agricultural Permits Branch, Environmental Permits Division, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality & Laura T. Vollar is Deputy Director, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Applicator Certifications, License Renewals, and Agricultural Events

Agricultural Meetings, Field Days, and Events

July 19: R. R. Foil Plant Science Research Center Field Day, North Farm, Starkville, (662) 325-4072

July 19: Corn Field Day, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, (662) 686-3232

July 19: Market Ready Training, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, (662) 325-0413

July 24-28: Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council Annual Convention, Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama, (662) 325-1269

July 27-28: Cloverleaf Summer Shootout Barrel Race, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (318) 680-4159

July 31: Rice Field Day, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, (662) 566-2201

August 9: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center Row Crop Field Day, Lee County Agri-Center, Magnolia Conference Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

August 3: 2012 Wildlife Extravaganza, Trade Mart, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (601) 605-1790

August 23-25: MEGA Open Barrel Race, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (901) 626-8994

October 4: Ornamental Horticulture Field Day, South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville, (601) 795-4525

October 5-6: Fall Flower and Garden Fest, Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station, Crystal Springs, (601) 892-3731

Commercial Applicator Renewals All Categories

**Excluding Aerial*

July 11: Forrest County Extension Office, Hattiesburg, (601) 545-6083

August 15: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

August 16: Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, (662) 686-3205

October 2: Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, (601) 857-2284

October 4: Panola County Extension Office, Batesville, (662) 563-6260

October 10: Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, (228) 546-1001

November 13: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

MAIC Robert H. McCarty Endowed Scholarships Awarded

By Stacey Swain

The Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council (MAIC) recently awarded its Robert H. McCarty Endowed Scholarship to three deserving Mississippi State University students. Jade Cobern, of Pontotoc, Mississippi, Chad Smith, of Starkville, Mississippi, and Carley Tucker, of Oxford, Mississippi, will each receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship to further their educations. Jade is a junior study-

ing Biochemistry, Chad is a graduate student studying Weed Science, and Carley is a senior studying Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion. The scholarship honors Robert H. McCarty's 33 years of service to agriculture in Mississippi.

MAIC is a chartered, non-profit educational corporation dedicated to strengthening the agricultural industry through timely seminars, workshops, legislative efforts, and

academic scholarships. MAIC will host its annual convention July 24-28, 2012, at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Contact Butch Alpe at (662) 325-1269, or visit www.maicms.org, for additional information regarding MAIC.

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The Mississippi Farmers Market is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Downtown Jackson Off High Street

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PERSONNEL NEWS

Margaret Betts is retiring on June 30, 2012, after a nine-year career with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Since 2003, she has served as a receptionist with MDAC's Bureau of Plant Industry, dedicated to assisting the public and her fellow employees with a positive and cheerful attitude. The entire MDAC family congratulates Margaret on her years of service and wishes her well in retirement.



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