



## Korea Septoria Alert

January 18, 2011

Korea Exporters:

The combination of cold temperatures and high rainfall this season has contributed to near perfect conditions for the development of *Septoria citri*. UC Riverside's Jim Adaskaveg has reported that his predictive model shows that there is a very high risk for Septoria infection. Additionally, the level of detections for voluntary testing in the NAVEK program are at high levels. **The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) strongly advises all Korea exporters to ensure that copper treatments are in place by Jan. 20 to avoid interceptions in Korea.** As indicated in workshops earlier this season, copper applications are the only preventative treatment.

Even with the reduced risk of detections in Korea based on actual sporulation of the pathogen, if high levels of disease are detected here in March, there is a risk that infected, sporulating fruit could be detected in Korea.

Based on rainfall and temperatures to date, it is highly likely that a third application of copper will be required this season. Exporters should expect to treat with copper again sometime in mid to late February. A deadline will be fixed at a later date. Dr. Adaskaveg has also suggested possible use of Abound® (azoxystrobin) along with copper-zinc-lime treatments, because there is some penetration into the peel, which would suppress existing non-visible infections. Unfortunately, this fungicide does not persist more than a week or two. Preliminary data also indicates Abound® suppresses sporulation.

He also suggests that houses consider use of Graduate A+® (fludioxonil and azoxystrobin) as postharvest treatments to suppress sporulation. CCQC plans to hold a conference call to discuss the implications of using Abound® or Graduate A+® because the MRLs for both of these fungicides are only 1 ppm in Korea. Houses will need to evaluate their unique situation for application, harvest, treatment and shipment if these two fungicides are used to avoid MRL violations.

Since this strategy will be complex to implement we plan to hold a conference call within a couple of weeks to discuss its benefits and risks.

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