

CALIFORNIA CITRUS QUALITY COUNCIL

210 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 3
Auburn, California 95603

Telephone: (530) 885-1894 - Fax: (530) 885-1546

Hugh W. (Wally) Ewart, Ph.D., President: ccqc1946@pacbell.net

Carleen Price, Administrative Assistant: ccqc1314@pacbell.net

May 1, 2008

Chemical Alert on Movento (*Spirotetramat*) and Delegate (*Spinetoram*)

We have received many recent inquiries from the industry regarding these two very important insecticides that will have U.S. EPA registration for use on this season's orange crop. At the International Codex meeting on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) last week, I met with representatives of Bayer and Dow Agrosiences in order to hear the latest status of the tolerances (MRL's) of these chemicals in our most important export markets. Although the chemicals have many very positive attributes for use and meet marketing objectives for Canada and the United States, the registrants Bayer (Movento) and Dow Chemical (Delegate) do not yet have tolerances established in key citrus markets including Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, and Thailand. In addition, Codex tolerances for these pesticides are not expected to be established for at least 14 months. If you are certain that citrus fruit will only be sold in the U.S. or Canada, then the use of these new pesticides could be considered.

If your citrus fruit from this crop may be sold in any markets other than the U.S. or Canada, you should determine that the fruit does not have detectable residues of either pesticide on the fruit. Even though the registrants are reported to have residue decline curves that predict the timing of applications that will not result in detectable residues, testing on many representative samples would be needed to show that your fruit follows the general residue decline curve. We feel strongly that the risk of tolerance violations in countries that have no standards established raise issues not only for the specific lot being shipped but for the future shipments to that country. Japan, for example, does have protocols that could affect all industry shipments if more than one violation is detected. The determination of whether you use these new pesticides should take all of these risks into account.

We would appreciate your sending this information to all of your growers as soon as possible. The changes in the regulatory status of these two insecticides and many other important pesticides may be checked at CCQC's web site www.citrusresearch.com/ccqc. We will be sending you further information on these two materials as changes occur in future seasons. The information on Movento will be available on our export manual only after its publication in the Federal Register sometime in May. If you have further questions regarding these two pesticides, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Hugh W. Ewart
President