



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM
THE CAPITOL

October 5, 2012

Dear Citrus Producer:

I am writing to inform you of a small but meaningful recent development in the battle against Citrus Greening Disease (Huanglongbing; HLB). The Department has just approved a Special Local Need (SLN) registration for the expanded use of Admire Pro (Bayer CropScience, active ingredient, imidacloprid) as a soil drench insecticide treatment for young (1 to 5-year old) citrus trees. The SLN allows growers to further protect young citrus trees by doubling the maximum amount of active ingredient that can be applied each year. Rather than being limited to one application of 0.5 lb active ingredient per acre per year, growers will now be allowed to make two applications of 0.5 lb per acre per year, for a maximum application rate of 1.0 lb imidacloprid per acre per year. This SLN is effective immediately, but it is important to note that applications cannot be made to 3 to 5-year old trees between November 1st and the completion of blossom petal fall the following year. If you plan to make a second soil drench application of imidacloprid this year, it must be completed by October 31st. The next opportunity to apply will not come until after bloom.

Research by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has shown that soil drench applications of imidacloprid and other neonicotinoids provide effective control of Asian Citrus Psyllids in citrus trees that are 1 to 2-years old, but for trees 3 to 5-years old, the amount of neonicotinoid permitted by current pesticide label requirements is inadequate to give year-round protection. The new SLN for Admire Pro will provide some of the needed coverage for these young bearing trees. Registration actions to bridge remaining gaps in protection with other soil-applied neonicotinoids are being actively pursued by the Citrus Research Development Foundation, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, IFAS, and pesticide registrants. The Department is doing its part by coordinating closely with Florida stakeholders, conducting assessments to identify and where necessary, mitigate risks, and by consulting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prior to state SLN issuance. The EPA must review any SLN within 90 days of its issuance by a state.

If you plan to take advantage of the Admire Pro SLN, be sure to carefully read and comply with all instructions on the container label and the SLN label, and be sure to keep the SLN label on hand during application. Please be especially mindful of the fact that imidacloprid and other soil-applied neonicotinoid insecticides can be translocated to citrus blossoms, where they can be fed upon by foraging honey bees. Given that pesticide use has necessarily increased in response to HLB and other new diseases of citrus, honeybees may be at greater risk than in previous years. Studies are underway to determine the concentrations of pesticides in nectar

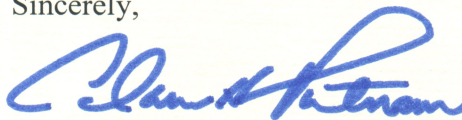


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from citrus blossoms. Until we have a clearer idea of the potential for honeybee exposure via this food source, you can do your part for bee protection by explaining the risks to beekeepers seeking permission to place hives on or near your groves. Areas where large expanses of treated resets occur and where little other bee forage is available could be particularly problematic.

Further research and dialogue with all parties will assist the Department in promoting the protection of both citrus and honeybees. As we break new ground, we are counting on the continuing cooperation of growers and beekeepers to help us achieve practical and mutually beneficial approaches.

Sincerely,



Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture