

Bayer CropScience Cooperates with EPA's Decision to Cancel Temik® Uses in Citrus and Potatoes

Bayer CropScience is cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following the August 16, 2010 announcement to cancel uses of aldicarb, sold as Temik® brand insecticide/nematicide, on potatoes and citrus. Uses on all other crops will remain, but will be phased out over the next few years.

For nearly 40 years, Temik has provided farmers with unsurpassed control of destructive pests, without compromising human health or environmental safety. Bayer recognizes this decision has significant impact on employees, growers, and the food industry, and will work to address concerns of stakeholders during this transition.

Why the change in registration

With the submission of the new data and more conservative assumptions in the EPA's risk cup assessments, the agency determined that the use of Temik on potatoes, citrus and potential residues in southeast groundwater were no longer acceptable. Although the company does not fully agree with this new risk assessment approach, these findings do not represent a food safety issue.

Impact to the channel

According to the agreement with the EPA, farmers may continue to use existing stocks of Temik on citrus and potatoes until December 31, 2011, allowing inventories to clear the channel of trade. Uses on all other crops will be maintained with some additional label changes, until an orderly product phase-out is completed. These label changes include reduced label use rates for cotton and peanuts and increased buffer areas around vulnerable wells.

The agreement with the EPA provides the following dates:

- December 31, 2014 – the last date of sale by Bayer CropScience
- December 31, 2016 – the last date of sales by the distribution channel to the end user
- August 31, 2018 – the last use date by an end user

Going Forward

Bayer CropScience recognizes the loss of this tool for growers, and has and will continue to seek innovative solutions to fill this void. Bayer CropScience leads the industry in bringing new products to agriculture with recent solutions such as Corvus, Balance Flex, Oberon, Envidor, Movento, Belt, Laudis, and new products pending registration, such as Alion and Luna. During this transition, customers and stakeholders may continue to have questions regarding the product and related issues. Customers can contact the Bayer CropScience Customer Interaction Center at 866-992-2937 for further information or send their question to: communications@bayercropscience.com, or call Al Luke, Strategic Business Entity Lead (919-549-2462), or Lee Hall, Temik® Product Manager (919-549-2455).

Issue Brief / Q&A

Questions and Answers

Q: What action is EPA taking and why?

A: The current situation for Temik was due to a recent EPA reregistration evaluation of the compound. The EPA determined that due to new information from studies and applying different assumptions in their risk cup assessments the uses of aldicarb on potatoes, citrus and potential residues in southeast groundwater were no longer acceptable.

Q. With the loss of potato and citrus uses did the remaining crops fit within the new EPA risk cup?

A. EPA initially determined that the uses in the southeast did not fit within the risk cup due to groundwater concerns, based on their risk assessment model which grossly inflates potential exposure. However, Bayer was able to reduce label use rates for cotton and peanuts and also increase buffer areas around vulnerable wells to allow these label uses to continue.

Q: Bayer doesn't seem to be supporting the needs of their end use customers by walking away from a product like TEMIK. What is the future of Bayer as an Agricultural Company?

A: Temik has been an important product to producers and Bayer for over 40 years. Bayer CropScience leads the industry in bringing new products to agriculture and is committed to bringing new innovation solutions and services to growers to support their role in feeding a growing world population. We continue to invest in research and development to deliver innovative solutions that help growers protect and maximize the potential of their crops. Bayer CropScience recently launched a number of new crop protection products such as Corvus, Balance Flex, Oberon, Envidor, Movento, Belt, Laudis, and will introduce a number of new products in the near future, including Alion, Luna brands and innovative row crop trait technologies.

Q: I applied Temik to my crops this year are they safe to sell?

A: Yes, all crops that were applied with Temik per the label directions are safe for consumption and/ or sale. The use of Temik does not represent a food safety issue.

Q: Even though I appreciate Bayer's position that there is no risk, I am afraid to use the product that I have in my possession. Can I return it for a refund?

A: Check with your local retailer to discuss their refund policy.

Q: Will Temik continue to be sold in other countries?

A: All global sales of Temik will be phased out in the next few years.

Q: Who do I need to call at Bayer CropScience if I, as a farmer, have any questions about this product?

A: You may contact our Customer Interaction Center at 866-992-2937 and you will be directed to the appropriate representative to collect your comments and concerns.