

# Report to the Agricultural Research Foundation for the Oregon Strawberry Commission

**Title:** Strawberry Pesticide Registration, Tracking, and New Chemistries

**Principal**

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**Funding Period:** 2018

**Progress:**

- I. We continue to keep track of pesticide issues affecting the Oregon strawberry industry. Each week, we monitor the published US Federal Register, which is the official venue for notices and actions relating to pesticide registrations at EPA, and follow-up on any issues that may affect Oregon strawberry growers. Some new US-registered strawberry pesticides are quick to obtain an MRL in foreign markets, while others are slower and still in progress. I continue to work with the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service and the appropriate pesticide registrants to get tolerances (MRLs) established in Japan and other foreign markets.
- II. The Pesticide Registration Update Chart that I develop for strawberry growers and field representatives is updated at least three times a year, most often prior to the OSC annual meeting, in spring prior to the growing season, and at the NWREC Strawberry Field Day. Growers and other industry representatives indicate this list is widely used as a reference for pest management decisions. I also develop and distribute a list of MRLs (maximum residue levels) for strawberries in the US, Canada, Japan, the EU/UK, and Codex (international). This helps growers and processor/packers develop a pest management spray regime based on the anticipated destination of their fruit.
- III. We communicate with representatives of the strawberry industry and continue to identify and prioritize pest management gaps and needs, which may be created by the loss of currently registered pesticides. The OSC is kept updated on important pesticide issues via grower meetings, OSC meetings, newsletters, or personal communication.

**IV. New Pesticide Registrations Granted in 2017:**

- (1) **Dual Magnum (S-metolachlor):** A pre-emerge herbicide that is effective in controlling many different broadleaf and grass weeds. Dual is especially effective on yellow nutsedge. Be aware that strawberries are not listed on the main Dual Magnum label; there is an Oregon SLN label (OR-180010) that allows use in strawberries. The SLN label allows application during dormancy, post-emergence, and after renovation.

- (2) **Fusilade (fluazifop-butyl)**. Fusilade is a post-emergence herbicide that controls any different types of grasses. Being that it is a grass-specific herbicide, it is very safe to use in strawberries. This new registration allows use in bearing fields with a 30-day PHI.
- (3) **Gatten (flutianil)**: A new fungicide from Nichino for control of powdery mildew. Unlike other fungicides registered for control of powdery mildew in strawberries, flutianil is in FRAC# U13. Gatten can be used on the day of harvest (0-day PHI) and berries harvested once the spray solution has dried.
- (4) **Stinger (clopyralid)**: The Stinger/Strawberry SLN label (OR-030031) allowed application of  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint of product in spring and  $\frac{1}{3}$  pint in fall, but research and SLN registrations in other states showed that efficacy is increased when  $\frac{2}{3}$  pint is applied in the fall. Working with Dow (Corteva) and ODA, we were able to develop a Stinger/Strawberry SLN label that allows up to  $\frac{2}{3}$  pint in the fall, giving growers more options for management of hard-to-control weeds, such as Canada thistle. The revised SLN label is now available and allows the increased fall rate. Read the revised label carefully for use specific directions and restrictions that apply.

**V. Impacts and Benefits of this Project:**

The registration of safe and effective pest management solutions helps growers produce a high quality crop, remain economically viable, and enables them to be competitive in the national and international marketplace. Providing growers and the strawberry industry with current information about pest management and pesticide issues helps them be up-to-date and better informed as they make important pest management and marketing decisions that affect their operation. In addition, the registration of new chemistries, with unique modes of action, helps reduce the likelihood of the development of resistance and increase the chances of successful pest management.