



Use of Herbicide on Strawberry Crops Open for Comment

Release Date: 4/5/13

Contact: Donna Gilson 608-224-5130

donna.gilson@wi.gov

Jim Dick, Communications Director, 608-224-5020

jim.dick@wi.gov

MADISON – The public can comment until April 12 on a proposed special registration of Spartan® 4F, a pesticide used to control weeds in commercial strawberry crops.

The registration would allow use for weeds such as common groundsel and ladysthumb, which reduce yields, weaken strawberry plants, and hamper harvesting. This product is not intended for homeowner use. FMC Corp. of Philadelphia is the manufacturer.

Spartan® 4F is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and registered in Wisconsin for use on strawberries. However, the label allows use only before strawberry plants emerge; in Wisconsin, strawberries are transplanted as seedlings. The special registration would allow use of the herbicide after harvest and mowing, or when the crop is dormant.

The EPA authorized an exemption to allow use on strawberries after harvest and during dormancy from 2006-2010, when Spartan® 4F was not labeled for use on strawberries at all. In 2011, strawberries were added to the list of allowable uses on the label, but only before seedlings emerged. FMC obtained a special registration in Wisconsin for 2011-2012, and is asking for this special registration through Dec. 31, 2016, to allow time for this use to be added to the label.

DATCP did not receive any reports of harmful effects during the previous exemption and special registration.

The special registration process allows states to register additional uses of pesticide products without prior federal approval. It helps growers address local pest problems that cannot be adequately controlled by any available federally registered product. These problems include insect outbreaks, fungal diseases, and grasses and weeds that harm crops. Details about the special registration process are available at <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/SpecialRegistrationApplication.pdf>.

There are restrictions on use of the product for strawberry crops:

- Ground application only
- No more than 12 fluid ounces per acre per season, either in one application at planting, or two applications at different times (planting, post-harvest, dormancy)
- No applications within 70 days before harvest
- No use on soils classified as sand

For a copy of the assessment, contact Matt Sunseri, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI, 53708-8911, 608-224-4547. It is available for review at the department Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison, second floor. Comments received on or before 4:30 p.m., April 12, will become part of the preliminary environmental assessment record. Send comments to Matt Sunseri by mail at the above address or by email at matthew.sunseri@wisconsin.gov.

###