



Comments Requested for Special Pesticide Registration for Cucumber Fields

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MADISON – The public can comment until July 3 on proposed special local needs registration of a pesticide to be used to control weeds in cucumber fields.

The special registration proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will allow growers to use Sandea® on cucumbers up to 21 days before harvest, rather than the 30 days that is ordinarily permitted.

Sandea ® contains the active ingredient *halosulfuron-methyl* and is registered by Gowan Co. of Yuma, AZ. It is already registered for use on cucumbers, but with the longer pre-harvest interval. It acts by inhibiting the action of a plant enzyme, which then kills the plant.

Cucumber producers and the University of Wisconsin-Madison asked the company to apply for the special registration, because the cucumber plants themselves are more vulnerable to the herbicide earlier in the season, and because the target weeds often are not present until less than 30 days before harvest. Hand-weeding is not practical because of the vining nature of cucumber plants, and an adequate labor force would not be available regardless, the application stated. The weeds reduce yield and hinder harvest equipment.

The preliminary environmental assessment indicates that the proposed amendment will not require a full environmental impact statement. This special pesticide registration will expire December 31, 2018.

For a copy of the assessment, contact Robby Personette, DATCP, P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI, 53708-8911, 608-224-4542. 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., July 3, will become part of the preliminary environmental assessment record. Send comments to Robby Personette by mail at the above address or by email at robby.personette@wi.gov.

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 under current labeling. These problems include insect outbreaks, fungal diseases, and grasses and weeds that outcompete crops. Details about the special registration process are available at

<http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/SpecialRegistrationApplication.pdf>.

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