

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

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www.mass.gov/agr



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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
Commissioner

PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Moore, DPH, Food Protection Program, (Chair)	Present
Taryn LaScola, MDAR, Designee for Commissioner Randle	Present
Meg Blanchet, DPH, Designee for Commissioner Goldstein	Present
Eric Seaborn, DCR, Designee for Commissioner LaChapelle	Present
Richard Berman, Commercial Applicator	Present

The Board did meet or exceed the minimum number (3) of members present to form a quorum and conduct business.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR August 20, 2025

Motion: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Moore, M. Blanchet, E. Seaborn, T. LaScola

Opposed: None

Abstained: R. Berman

B. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR October 28, 2025, Subcommittee cover sheet with the exception of the following products:

1. Emade, EPA Reg. No. 83529-144,
2. LV 400 2,4-D Weed Killer, EPA Reg. No. 2217-77,
3. Transport GHP Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 8033-96-101563,
4. Echelon 4SC Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-294,
5. Transport Mikron Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 8033-109-101563,
6. Triple Crown T&O Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-352,
7. Dismiss NXT Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-315,
8. SOLITARE Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-310, Dismiss Turf Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-284, and
9. Brevis SC, EPA Reg. No. 66222-298.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, M. Moore, T. LaScola, Eric Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that the use of the following products:

1. LV 400 2,4-D Weed Killer, EPA Reg. No. 2217-77, containing 2,4-D 2-ethylhexyl ester at 65.5%, be categorized as restricted use pursuant to the Subcommittee's decision on April 14, 1989, to register products containing 20% or more of **2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)** and/or its derivatives as state restricted use.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: E. Seaborn

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, M. Moore, T. LaScola, Eric Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion: the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined that use of the following product:

1. Transport GHP Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 8033-96-101563, containing acetamiprid,
2. Transport Mikron Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 8033-109-101563, containing acetamiprid, and
3. Triple Crown T&O Insecticide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-352, containing imidacloprid,

may pose unreasonable adverse effects to the environment as well as to pollinators, when taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use in the Commonwealth and are thereby restricted. This is pursuant to the Subcommittee's decision on March 1, 2021, to modify the registration classification of products containing **neonicotinoids**, including **clothianidin** and **imidacloprid**, that have outdoor non-structural uses or outdoor non-agricultural uses on the label from general to state restricted use.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, M. Moore, T. LaScola, Eric Seaborn

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Motion: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee has determined the use of the following products

1. Emade, EPA Reg. No. 83529-144, containing diuron,
2. Echelon 4SC Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-294, containing sulfentrazone,
3. Dismiss NXT Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-315, containing sulfentrazone,
4. SOLITARE Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-310, containing sulfentrazone, and
5. Dismiss Turf Herbicide, EPA Reg. No. 101563-284, containing sulfentrazone,

may cause an unreasonable risk to man or the environment, when taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use. This determination is based upon the leaching potential and toxicological concern of these substances as defined in the "Protection of Groundwater Supplies from Non-Point Source Pesticide Contamination" Regulations. Therefore, the Subcommittee hereby modifies the registration classification of agricultural/commercial pesticide products containing **diuron** and **sulfentrazone** from general to restricted use for groundwater concerns.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, M. Moore, Eric Seaborn, T. LaScola

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

C. NEW ACTIVE INGREDIENT

Miller presented information on the new active ingredient (AI) **metamitron**, formulated in the product Brevis SC, EPA Reg. No. 66222-298, for thinning fruits in apple and pear trees. The new AI is 14.4 % of the formulation, which is a suspension concentrate. Metamitron is a selective, systemic triazinone plant growth regulator. It is classified as a Group 5 herbicide, which includes chemicals that inhibit photosynthesis. Brevis SC was granted reduced risk status by EPA, expediting the federal review process.

Handling Precautions: The Brevis label signal word is 'Caution'. Baseline PPE is required (long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks) as are chemical-resistant gloves and chemical-resistant hats for applicators. The restricted entry interval (REI) is 12 hours. The product is reportedly rainfast within 2 hours of application for up to 0.4 inches of rain or irrigation equivalent.

Use pattern: Brevis SC is a post-bloom chemical fruit thinner for apples and pears. However, note that it is NOT labeled for pear use in Massachusetts, only apples.

The environmental hazard statement consists of a short groundwater advisory about the possibility of leaching if the water table is shallow or soils are permeable. The label also has drift language to minimize offsite exposures. Specifically, medium or coarser droplet sizes must be used, applications are generally limited to when wind speeds are 3-15 mph, and conditions of low humidity, high temperatures, and temperature inversion should be avoided.

The only permitted application method is airblast. The application rate is 16-40 oz product/acre for apple crops in states east of the Rocky Mountains, maximum of 96 oz/acre annually. There is a minimum application interval of 8 days and preharvest interval of 72 days.

Human Health: Both the technical grade product and the Brevis formulation were evaluated for toxicity. Studies show that their overall risk profile is similar. Both are Toxicity Category IV, the lowest level of toxicity, via the inhalation route and Toxicity Category III for acute oral exposure. Brevis is Category III for acute dermal exposure instead of IV for the technical product but less irritating to the eye (IV). Both are practically nontoxic in terms of dermal irritation and neither is a dermal sensitizer.

Acute exposures resulted in symptoms of neurotoxicity in rodents at doses of 100 mg/kg bw, manifesting as sedation, prone positioning, and reflexive hair bristling. Chronic toxicity studies indicated the liver is the main target organ, with higher glucose and cholesterol levels and histopathological effects such as hypertrophy observed. No adverse developmental or maternal toxicity was observed in rat and rabbit studies. Two multigenerational reproductive toxicity studies were available: in one, no offspring toxicity was observed and in the second, offspring had decreased weight, litter size, and survivability index at doses exceeding 200 mg/kg/day.

Endocrine Disruption Screening Program studies did not indicate any effects from a standard battery of hormone-related tests. In clearance studies, metamitron was rapidly metabolized, with < 4% of the molecule recovered unchanged in excrete waste. By 24 hours after dosing, 92% or greater had been excreted, roughly half via urine and half via feces. The dermal absorption factor (DAF) used in risk analysis assessments for metamitron is 53%. The EPA carcinogenicity classification is 'Not Likely to Be Carcinogenic to Humans' based on a lack of treatment-related tumors in rodent studies and low mutagenic potential.

EPA determined there is human exposure potential from drinking water. The most exposed subgroup of the US population was children under the age of one, with a calculated exposure at 5.3% of the chronic population adjusted dose (cPAD) allowed per day. The EPA Health Effects Division found that for occupational handlers applying via airblast, the dermal route of exposure resulted in the most risk, with inhalation presenting less. To increase the margin of exposure above the level of concern (LOC), additional PPE - chemical resistant hat or using an enclosed cab - is required during application. All other handler exposure scenarios were not of concern. No residential use is allowed and exposure in residential areas is considered unlikely, though non-occupational exposures resulting from spray drift from agricultural applications onto residential areas could occur. In that scenario, dermal was the most likely route of exposure, with margins of exposure 5 – 10x the LOC and child hand-to-mouth 280x the LOC.

Environmental Risk Assessment: Metamitron is slightly toxic to birds on an acute basis due to observed mortality at high concentrations. Exposure scenarios typically involve small or medium-sized birds potentially consuming grass or other vegetation containing residue. It is only slightly toxic to mammals on an acute basis but has some chronic effects on survival, growth, and reproduction.

The compound appears practically non-practical to adult honeybees from acute oral and contact exposure. Chronic exposure affects both larvae and adults, exceeding the chronic LOC for both groups on a study treatment field. To mitigate these hazards, the label has a bloom restriction and recommends mowing the orchard understory. Supplemental studies on earthworms showed no effects at the highest soil concentration of 5.5 mg/kg dry soil.

Metamitron is practically non-toxic to freshwater fish on an acute exposure basis and no effects to survival or growth in fathead minnow in chronic exposure studies were observed up to 10.3 mg/L. For freshwater invertebrates, a water flea study indicated that metamitron is moderately toxic on an acute basis (EC₅₀ = 5.7 mg/L), and chronic exposures resulted in growth reductions at similar concentrations. Metamitron is slightly toxic to estuarine/marine invertebrates for acute exposures. A waiver request was accepted by EPA for chronic exposure to estuarine/marine organisms since the product is not intended for direct application and it is not expected to enter the environment in significant concentrations.

The most sensitive growth stage for terrestrial plants was seedling emergence, affecting both monocots and dicots but grass the least. Vegetative vigor studies showed limited effects on survival and growth in mature plants, but this varied by species. For aquatic plants, diatoms were the most sensitive in terms of impacted growth. Available data on the degradate desamino-metamitron indicates it is less toxic to aquatic plants than the parent compound.

Endangered Species Act: EPA determined that of the 362 nationally listed and proposed listed species, metamitron has 'No Effect' on 345 and is 'Not Likely to Adversely Affect' the other 17, the latter mostly species in the West, particularly California.

Metamitron degradation in the environment is highly condition-dependent. Aqueous photolysis is the major dissipation route in unshaded, shallow surface waters (DT₅₀ = 0.037 days). It is water-soluble and considered mobile in the environment, though it is not expected to volatilize in field conditions. It is also unlikely to bioaccumulate significantly in terrestrial or aquatic organisms.

Groundwater Protection: Metamitron does not meet the criteria for being classified as a potential groundwater contaminant in Massachusetts.

Subcommittee discussion:

LaScola asked why crop use for this product is so state-specific. The MDAR team had no specific information on registrant rationale for seeking the geographic use patterns currently present on the label.

Blanchet asked if MDAR staff had come across any registration documents that evaluated post-application inhalation exposure since EPA noted that this aspect would be evaluated during registration review. LaScola and MDAR staff clarified that this aspect will be evaluated by EPA as part of registration review now that it is a registered active ingredient. Registration review is conducted on a 15-year cycle to re-evaluate registered pesticides to maintain their registration in the US.

Move: that the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approve the product registrations for Brevis SC, EPA Reg. No. 66222-298, containing the new active ingredient **metamitron**, which has never before been registered in Massachusetts.

Moved: R. Berman

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, Eric Seaborn, M. Moore, T. LaScola

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

D. NEW BUSINESS

Berman asked about the timeline for the Rodenticide Scientific Review. LaScola stated that the final Phase 2 report is expected to be completed soon. Once the final report is received by MDAR, it will be shared with the Subcommittee and posted on the webpage.

Moore noted that the Subcommittee will be considering votes on some big items in the near future and brought up the need for timely notification to allow Subcommittee members to interact with their agencies and commissioners before voting on these big items. The Subcommittee briefly shared thoughts about this aspect and recognized that it is important particularly related to preparation for discussing and voting on big items. Burgess, MDAR legal services, suggested putting this discussion of procedures for timely notification on the agenda for the next meeting. This allows the public to be notified that this discussion is going to take place and allows MDAR staff and Subcommittee to prepare for such a discussion. The Subcommittee was in agreement with this approach.

E. ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the Oct 28, 2025, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: M. Moore

Second: T. LaScola

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Blanchet, R. Berman, M. Moore, E. Seaborn, T. LaScola

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

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