

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor, Southborough, MA 01772
www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll
LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper
SECRETARY

Ashley E. Randle
COMMISSIONER

PESTICIDE BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 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	Absent
Nicole Keleher, DCR, Designee for Commissioner Arrigo	Present
Richard Berman, Commercial Applicator	Absent

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

A. REVIEW OF MINUTES for December 17, 2024

Motion: T. LaScola

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: N. Keleher, M. Moore, T. LaScola,

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

B. PRODUCT REGISTRATIONS

Motion That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee registers the pesticide products listed on the EIPAS PR January 21, 2025, Subcommittee cover sheet

Moved: T. LaScola

Second: N. Keleher,

Discussion: None

In Favor: T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

C. SECTION 18 EMERGENCY EXEMPTION REQUEST

The Pesticide Board Subcommittee considered the Recertification Request for Pronamide (formulated in Kerb SC, 35.6% a.i., EPA 62719-578). MDAR received a recertification request for a Section 18 emergency exemption for the use of Kerb SC herbicide in the 2025 use season on cranberries to control Dodder for certain growers who have a very heavy infestation of dodder weed in cranberry bogs. Kerb SC herbicide is a critical tool for those growers to control and mitigate that pest.

This is a recertification request for a Section 18 that was first granted in 2019 and EPA designated it to be eligible for recertification in 2025. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the process of adding the use of cranberries to the Section 3 label and the registrant has submitted the requested data to EPA to complete the registration review of this herbicide. In the meantime, EPA has used the Section 18 option to make this product available to address emergency situations such as heavy infestations of dodder in cranberry.

The meeting package included:

- Request letter from Dr. Katherine Ghantous, UMass Cranberry Station
- Support letter from the registrant
- Support letter from the Cranberry Institute
- Expedited Emergency Exemption Request form
- Use report for the 2024 season
- Section 18 Use Instructions for Kerb SC to control dodder in cranberry

Dr. Katherine Ghantous, UMass Cranberry Station, was in attendance and provided additional information to support this request. LaScola asked whether the use of Kerb SC has been effective to control the heavy dodder infestations. Ghantous indicated that the few growers using the product have been pleased with the results. Ghantous indicated that the product is presently being reviewed by EPA. Kerb SC Herbicide helps a small group of growers that face heavy infestations of dodder. There is no alternative pesticide available to control this weed pest. Recognizing the fact that this Section 18 has been used for several years, Moore asked if there was any indication that the Section 3 label for cranberry would become available. Ghantous responded that they have not received an update on the new target date for approval.

Move: That due to the lack of currently registered pesticide products for the control of the emergency pest problem, the Pesticide Board Subcommittee approves of a FIFRA Section 18 Emergency exemption petition for the use of Kerb SC, EPA Reg. No 62719-578, containing the active ingredient **pronamide** for the control of weed pest dodder in cranberries.

Moved: T. LaScola

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Moore, T. LaScola, N. Keleher

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

D. Special Local Needs (SLN) Renewal Request: The Pesticide Board Subcommittee will consider the request for renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration (SLN No. MA-20001) for the use of Spartan 4F herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 279-3220; a.i. sulfentrazone) for control of haircap moss in Cranberry. (Vote Required)

Wijnja briefly introduced SLN renewal request application for the use of Spartan 4F for control of haircap moss in cranberries. This SLN was first registered in 2020 under the product Zeus XC herbicide. The SLN was subsequently amended to allow the use of Spartan 4F herbicide, which is the same formulation as Zeus XC herbicide. This SLN label expired last year and therefore initiated this request to renew the label and continue the SLN registration for the use of Spartan 4F on cranberries.

The information considered in 2020 indicated the fast growing weed threat of moss in cranberries. The active ingredient sulfentrazone in Spartan 4F offers control, while not causing damage to cranberry vines. The information for the renewal request indicates that this issue continues to exist for cranberry growers in Massachusetts.

The meeting package included:

- Request letter from Dr. Katherine Ghantous, UMass Cranberry Station
- SLN initiation form
- SLN application form
- Proposed Spartan 4F Cranberry MA SLN label
- Draft SLN Label for 2024-2029

Dr. Katherine Ghantous, UMass Cranberry Station, was in attendance and provided additional information to support this request. Keleher asked if there has been significant use of this product by cranberry growers. Ghantous indicated that it is the case. While a few different moss species occur in cranberries that grow under wet conditions, the haircap moss species can survive under dry conditions, thrives when cranberries are dormant and is found everywhere. This species has exploded during the last 15 to 20 years and has become an issue for many growers. Sulfentrazone is therefore a critical tool to address this situation. Ghantous also pointed out that SLNs for Sulfentrazone have also been established in other cranberry growing states.

Move: That the Pesticide Board Subcommittee hereby approves the renewal of the existing FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration (SLN No. MA-200001) for the use of Spartan 4F Herbicide (EPA Reg No 279-3220) for control of haircap moss in cranberry.

Motion: T. LaScola

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: M. Moore, T. LaScola, N. Keleher

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

E. Scientific Review Contractor Update.

LaScola provided information on the Request for Quote for a contract to conduct the scientific review relative to rodenticide that was posted on January 16th and is open until February 18th. The Department will then review the submissions and select a contractor. Moore acknowledged the receipt of a recent letter from the petitioner Harvard Law School Animal Law and Policy Clinic. In the letter, the petitioner requests the selection process for a contract to be public. Moore asked if MDAR is following the normal procurement process and LaScola indicated that this is the case. Burgess from MDAR Legal provided additional clarification and indicated the current bid is restricted to eligible current state-wide contractors that may be able to handle the requested services. In this initial stage, qualified and pre-vetted contractors get the first chance to respond. If needed, a full public bid may be used to get additional responses, but that would require more time. Burgess noted that eventually all the information will be subject to public record. Burgess further indicated that MDAR will keep everyone informed on the process.

F. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought forward.

H. ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn the January 21, 2025, Subcommittee Meeting.

Moved: T. LaScola

Second: N. Keleher

Discussion: None

In Favor: T. LaScola, N. Keleher, M. Moore

Opposed: None

Abstained: None