

WA Mint Drops

SPRING - 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON MINT GROWERS ASSOCIATION



Mint Industry Pesticide Update (*April 11, 2016*)

Steve Salisbury, Mint Industry Research Council

It has been busy on the pesticide front this winter and spring, and we are all anxiously watching progress on mint registrations and labels. There is headway in all phases of our pesticide pipeline projects from trial plot research, IR-4 projects, and the pending Section 18 request.

As most of you are aware, a Section 18 request was pulled together for Tough herbicide (pyridate) this winter by the MIRC. The request was submitted to seven mint producing states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. After discussions and revisions with each of the states, they have submitted the requests on to the EPA for consideration. Currently, the request is being reviewed by the EPA to determine our case for urgency and the non-routine situation as well as any potential impacts the herbicide could have.

In March, Bryan Ostlund and I met with the Emergency Response Team at the EPA to discuss the situation leading us to the Section 18 request. This was a positive meeting that gave us the opportunity to explain the mint industry's significant need to regain the registered use of Tough herbicide and the tremendous efforts that have been made within the mint weed research community to discover an alternative to Tough. By the end of the meeting the EPA staff had a better understanding of our industry's weed situation, the effects of weeds on oil quality, the economic impacts, and how Tough can play a great role in keeping mint growers competitive and viable in the world market.

The manufacturer and registrant of Tough is Belchim Crop Protection in Belgium, and the U.S. distributor is Engage Agro USA. Both companies have put a lot of effort into supporting the MIRC request for emergency registration. If the emergency registration is approved they will work as quickly as possible to get product to all of the local outlets as soon as possible.

As with any Section 18 registration and label there comes a little paperwork that all growers wishing to use the product need to participate in. That includes a "Waiver of Liability and Indemnification Agreement" that growers need to sign and have notarized prior to taking possession of any product. These agreements will be administered by the MIRC and circulated as soon as possible following an EPA approval.

In summary, the MIRC is working hard to bring Tough herbicide back to the growers. However, there are still a lot of regulatory challenges that need to be overcome before any approval will be made. This is a unique regulatory situation and we are working hard to navigate the process. If the Section 18 is not approved, then we will continue to work towards getting a full Section 3 registration.

In this Issue

Mint Industry Pesticide Update - April 11, 2016

Steve Salisbury, Mint Industry Research Council (Pgs. 1-2)

WA Mint Growers Launch New Website

Fill out a grower profile (Insert)

Spring Crop Reports (Pg. 2-3)

2016 WA Mint Commission Field Day (Pg. 3)

Upcoming Events

June 7, 2016: Washington Mint Growers Field Day and Barbeque. The tour will begin at 4pm at the WSU Prosser research facility - BBQ dinner to follow. For more information please contact the WMC office at 509-585-5460

December 6, 2016: Washington Mint Convention, More information to come. Any questions please call the Washington Mint Growers Association Office at 509-585-5460.

January 25-26 2017: MIRC annual meeting, NEW LOCATION - San Diego. Any questions please contact the MIRC office at 503-371-5936

WA Mint Growers Association
100 North Fruitland St.
Suite B
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-585-5460
agmgt@agmgt.com

CROP REPORTS from the Dealers

All Regions

Scotch – Compared to 2015 Scotch decreased by 9.3% in the Far West to about 8,900 acres.

Native - Compared to 2015 Far West Native held relatively steady with a 2% decrease to 10,100 acres.

Peppermint - Compared to 2015 acres are slightly up overall with a decent baby rotation.

Washington

Scotch – There is an estimated 6,700 acres of Scotch in WA this year. The crop looks to be in good shape and in line for an average production year.

Native - There is about 9,100 acres of Native in WA this year. The crop looks to have wintered well. The spot market has been quiet as of late, with the last activity reported to be at \$16.00.

Peppermint (Including NE Oregon, Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin) – Acres are up from last year ~8% and are coming in about 14,000 acres. About 8,500 of this is expected to be double cut with the remainder going towards baby and single cut mature peppermint. Baby acres are estimated at 3,500 which is a decent baby rotation. The crop looks to have overwintered well and heat units are estimated to be a little ahead of average. Handlers are watching the grower maturity targets closely especially for double cut. Demand is slow on the spot market which is to be expected for this time of year.

Idaho - Utah -

Oregon (All OR Regions)

Scotch – There are around 2,200 acres this year. The crop looks to have wintered well, and seems to be in good shape.

(Continued on Page 3)



Mint Industry Pesticide Update - CONTINUED (April 11, 2016)

Steve Salisbury, Mint Industry Research Council

As for the IR-4 pipeline, there is progress being made here as well. The latest update on pyroxasulfone (Zidua herbicide, BASF) is that the residue analysis work is done and the final report will be submitted to IR-4 headquarters soon. IR-4 is projecting a submission to EPA by late summer or early fall 2016. Pyroxasulfone is a pre-emergence herbicide that will provide good to excellent control of broadleaf and grass weeds.

Sulfentrazone (Spartan herbicide, FMC) is in the IR-4 to amend the current mint label to include use in double-cut mint. It was unfortunately delayed last year. Currently, IR-4 is prepared to submit the request however they are waiting on FMC to provide their information for submission. A submission to EPA could occur soon once FMC is onboard with the paperwork.

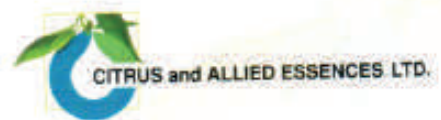
The EPA should be making a decision on IR-4's submission for carfentrazone (Aim herbicide, FMC) tolerance and registration in the very near future. This will be a nice additional broadleaf contact herbicide for use in mint. However, by the time it is approved we will have missed the labeled timing for application this spring as it is projected to be a dormant application only.

The IR-4 started the residue work on linuron this spring. Since this project just got underway it is difficult to project a timeline to registration. The MIRC is also conducting several linuron performance and crop safety trials this year in the West and Midwest. This information will be useful to generate recent data and information on recommended use patterns in regional locations.

Pesticide research projects include herbicide and nematicides trials. Weed scientists continue to screen and evaluate herbicides in hopes to discover new chemistries to use in mint. Research projects also include work on nematode control materials. As you are aware, the Vydate shortage situation has hung around much longer than anticipated which continues to pose a significant challenge to mint production as well as other crops. The MIRC continues to look for new materials that will perform with crop safety that could potentially lead to a new registration. At this time, trials in southwest Idaho show some promise of potential new materials for use on mint. As soon as there is enough data generated and registrant support developed we will pursue a new registration.

Lastly, I want to say "Thank you" to those of you who helped provide information to me for the Section 18 request. I appreciate your help and timely responses.

As further progress is made, or breaking news is available, we will circulate information as quickly as possible. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments.



Rob Haedrich
Vice President - Purchasing
Citrus and Allied Essences Ltd.
4620 Mercedes Drive, Belcamp, MD 21017
Tel: (410) 273-9500 • Fax: (410) 272-6972
Email: RHaedrich@citrusandallied.com
Web: www.citrusandallied.com



WASHINGTON
MINT
GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON MINT FLAVORS THE WORLD

WA Mint Growers Association

100 North Fruitland St., Ste. B,

Kennewick, WA 99336

Phone: 509-585-5460 Fax: 509-585-2671

E-mail: agmgt@agmgt.com

GROWER AND FARM INFORMATION

Grower Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST/Prov. _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____ E-mail _____

Farm Size (Acres) _____

Other Crops Grown _____

PLEASE PROVIDE A BACKGROUND ON YOU AND YOUR OPERATION.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT BEING A MINT GROWER?

WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE AS A MINT GROWER?

PLEASE INCLUDE A PICTURE FOR THE GROWER PROFILE

Washington Mint Growers Association Launches New Website: www.wamintgrowers.org

Washington Mint Growers Association launched their first website at www.wamintgrowers.org. We encourage you to visit the website to learn more about the Association and the activities of the WMGA. Please share this site with friends so they too can learn about Washington mint.

As part of the website, the WMGA Board has asked us to include a grower profiles page to educate the public about the mint industry and the issues you face as a mint grower. Please fill out the enclosed grower profile information sheet and return it **with a picture** of you on your farm. Please return it via direct mail or email.

We are excited for this new effort of the WMGA and look forward to our impact with the public as we educate them about mint. Also we are always willing to share pictures of your mint operations and the website is a great place to share these pictures. Please email Shane at shanej@agmgt.com with any pictures if you would be willing to let us post them online.

2016 Mint Growers Research Day and Barbeque Tuesday, June 7th at 4 p.m. - WSU, IAREC, Prosser

Save the Date and Join Us for:

- On-site reports from our excellent Washington mint researchers
- Field tour of research plots at the station
- Delicious Tri-Tip Steak BBQ - 6:00 p.m.

For growers and those with an interest in mint. This is an excellent opportunity to see first-hand what your research dollars are buying.

Thank-you to our 2016 Research Day Sponsors



CROP REPORTS from the Dealers

(continued from page 2)

Idaho - Utah - Oregon (All OR Regions)

Native - Native acres are up slightly in these areas with just over 1,000 acres total. The crop seems to be in good shape.

Peppermint – Acres are up only slightly from last year (<1%) at about 16,000 acres. 4,500 acres of baby has been planted and 20% of the 16,000 acres is double cut peppermint. Crop is ahead of schedule and all reports indicate that it is in good shape. Water situation for Owyhee, Payette, and Boise is good.

Willamette Peppermint - Acres have fallen off to around 11,200 acres but year over year is relatively stable. The inventory levels are lower than last spring at 50,000 lbs.

La Grande Peppermint

Acres are up this year slightly from last year's estimate of 6,600 acres.

Canada

Estimates indicate that Canada is about the same on acreage as last year coming in about 6,025 acres. The crop is slightly ahead and has wintered well.

Midwest

Midwest is still not done planting and has been experiencing wet and cool weather. Peppermint acres are expected to be slightly up with spearmint the same as the last year.





100 N Fruitland St., Suite B
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509)585-5460 - Office
(509)585-2671 - Fax

SAVE THE DATES!



Washington Mint Commission



WA Mint Commission Field Day

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

4pm, WSU, Prosser Research Station

More Information Inside

Washington  Mint Growers Association



WASHINGTON MINT FLAVORS THE WORLD

2016 Washington Mint Convention

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Three Rivers Convention Center - Kennewick, WA

More Information to come