

PLANT INDUSTRY NEWS

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MS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE - CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER - JOHN G. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR

Commissioner Hyde-Smith Secures Important Products for Mississippi Beekeepers

By Stacey Swain

Mississippi Agriculture Commissioner, Cindy Hyde-Smith, has announced approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of two emergency exemptions to help Mississippi beekeepers control damaging varroa mite infestations in honey bee colonies.

The following products have received emergency exemptions under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA):

- HopGuard® manufactured by BetaTec Hop Products. HopGuard® cardboard strips treated with potassium salt of hop beta acids may be inserted in honey bee colonies or packages of adult worker bees prior to installation in a honey bee colony. This exemption expires November 30, 2013.

- Apivar® manufactured by Veto-Pharma S.A. Apivar® slow-release plastic strips contain the active ingredient, amitraz, which will release on contact with bees when strips are

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EPA Announces Plan to Extend Sale and Use of MSMA

By Zack Chesser

On September 30, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final decision regarding the use of MSMA for weed management, which provided means of phasing out the important herbicide by 2013. During the phase-out period, EPA would allow unrestricted use of MSMA on cotton and set use

restriction guidelines for use on golf courses, sod farms, and highway rights-of-way.

Other important use sites were excluded by the decision, meaning MSMA would no longer be labeled or sold for use on residential turf, commercial turf, sports turf, forestry, non-bearing fruits and nuts, citrus (bearing and non-bearing), seed production (bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass),

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suspended in honey bee colonies. This exemption begins January 1, 2013, and expires December 31, 2013.

The varroa mite is a harmful, honey bee parasite that feeds on adult bees and developing brood. If left untreated, varroa mites can deform bees and eventually kill the colony.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Bureau of Plant Industry has authority under Section 18 of FIFRA to obtain an exemption from EPA for a non-labeled use of a pesticide if significant losses of an agricultural commodity are likely and alternative, labeled products are not available

or effective.

For additional information, beekeepers may contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390 or toll-free at 1-888-257-1285.

Photo: European honey bee with a Varroa mite on its back. By Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service.

MSMA, *continued from front page*

drainage ditch banks, railroad, pipe line, utility rights-of-way, fence rows, or storage yards. Existing stocks of MSMA, however, could legally be used for weed control on these sites until exhausted, provided that these uses comply with the EPA-approved label and labeling of the affected product.

This decision by EPA was followed by a considerable amount of disappointment from the public, and after many public comments and appeals, EPA confirmed a new decision on September 14, 2012. The new decision extended the sale and use of MSMA for golf courses, sod farms, highway rights-of-way, and cotton under the same use restrictions for at least three years, or until further notice from EPA.

While MSMA will continue to be labeled and

sold for use on golf courses, sod farms, highway rights-of-way, and cotton, EPA has provided specific use restrictions for each:

Cotton:

- No restrictions.

Golf Courses:

- One broadcast application of MSMA allowed per year on newly constructed courses.
- Only spot treatments allowed on existing courses.
 - * Spots must be less than 100 feet.
 - * Treat no more than 25 percent of course per year.
 - * Effective Date: September 14, 2012

Sod Farms:

- Only two broadcast applications of

MSMA allowed per season.

- 25 foot buffer strip required for farms bordering permanent water bodies.
 - * Effective Date: September 14, 2012

Highway Rights-of-Way:

- Two broadcast applications of MSMA allowed per year.
- 100 foot buffer strip required when spraying near permanent water bodies.
- Effective Date: September 14, 2012

Contact Zack Chesser at (662) 325-6629 for additional information regarding MSMA use guidelines and restrictions.

Zack Chesser is Branch Director,
Pesticide Registration.

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PERSONNEL NEWS

Beth Fulgham joined the Bureau of Plant Industry on October 22, 2012, as a Seed Analyst with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Seed Testing Laboratory. Prior to joining the Bureau, she attended Mississippi State University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Beth is a native of Louisville, Mississippi, and also works as a talented musician.

AG AVIATION INDUSTRY NEWS

Mississippi Ag Aviation Convention Returns to Biloxi in 2013

By Laura Vollar

Mark your calendars for the 2013 Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association (MAAA) Annual Convention, January 17-19, 2013, at the IP Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. For reservations, call 1-888-946-2847, or go online to www.ipbiloxi.com, and reference group code S136003. Make your reservations by December 18, 2012, to take advantage of the

limited time MAAA rate.

At the convention, you can expect invaluable training at continuing education classes led by industry experts, including the PAASS (Professional Aerial Applicator's Support System) Program. The 2013 Convention will also feature exhibitors displaying some of the latest industry technology.

As always, this once-a-year event provides an excellent opportunity to share ideas, cre-

ate lasting contacts, and network with your peers in the industry. MAAA is anticipating another great convention in January and hopes you will make plans to attend.

Please feel free to contact the MAAA at (662) 455-0070, or visit www.msaaa.com, for additional information.

Laura Vollar is Deputy Director.

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May I See Some Identification, Please?

By Russell Kohler

Consumers often contact the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) to inquire if an individual is licensed to perform professional services in pest and weed control, landscaping, and tree surgery. As a potential client, it is very important to make sure the individual you hire is indeed licensed to perform these services. A license ensures he or she has met qualifications, passed required examinations, and possesses the necessary knowledge and expertise to perform quality work. To find out if a pest or weed control operator, landscaper, or tree surgeon is licensed, simply ask to see his or her identification card before any work is performed on your home or property. All license holders and their registered technicians are responsible for having their ID cards in their possession at all times when performing work or soliciting business.



Current Pest and Weed Control ID Card

Individuals licensed to perform pest and weed control work carry an ivory ID card like the example shown above. All license holders in possession of this card qualified based on education, work experience, or a combination of both, and were required to pass a series of examinations based on his or her area(s) of specialization. This ID card enables an



Current Pest and Weed Control Registered Technician ID Card

operator to legally purchase and use restricted-use pesticides for pest and weed control work.

License holders employ technicians to assist in pest and weed control activities, and these registered technicians carry a gray ID card like the example shown above. There are three categories of work

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that require specialized training before an ID card can be issued to a technician, which are: Wood Destroying Insect Control, General Pest and Rodent Control, and Fumigation Pest Control. Training is recommended for all other categories of work, but it is not required. To become a registered technician, the license holder must submit an application to BPI requesting a registered technician ID card for their employee(s) once they have met the training requirements, if required.

Individuals licensed in landscaping and tree surgery, along with their registered technicians, carry green ID cards like the example shown on the right. All license holders in possession of this card were required to pass an examination in his or her area(s) of specialization.

To simplify the process, BPI will begin issuing blue ID cards to all those who qualify for a license in any category of pest or weed control, landscaping, or tree surgery. Registered technicians will continue to carry gray ID cards, in-



Current Landscape Horticulturist and Tree Surgery ID Card

cluding technicians in landscaping and tree surgery. Current licenses will remain valid until their expiration dates, when they will be replaced with the new, blue ID cards.

The following is a complete list of the Professional Services Category Codes you will find on ID cards:

- WDI. Wood Destroying Insect Control

- UP. Control Of Pests Of Utility Poles
- GRC. General Pest And Rodent Control
- HCP. Horticultural Pest Control
- ORP. Orchard Pest Control
- DAP. Domestic Animal Pest Control
- FUM. Fumigation Pest Control
- AGP. Agricultural Pest Control
- AGW. Agricultural Weed Control
- AQW. Aquatic Weed Control
- ROW. Right-Of-Way Weed Control
- HCW. Horticultural Weed Control
- LS. Landscape Horticulturist
- TS. Tree Surgery

Contact Russell Kohler at (662) 325-7766 or Lacy Adcock at (662) 325-0522 for additional information regarding identification cards and licensing in pest and weed control, landscaping, and tree surgery.

Russell Kohler is Branch Director,
Regulation of Professional Services.
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Applicator Certifications, License Renewals, and Agricultural Events

Agricultural Meetings, Field Days, and Events

January 10: 23rd Annual Mississippi-Louisiana Dairy Management Conference, Southwest Events Center Conference Facility, Tyler-town, (662) 325-2852

January 16-17: Delta Ag Expo, Bolivar County Exposition Center, Cleveland, (662) 624-3070

January 16-18: Gulf States Horticultural Expo, Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center, Mobile, AL, (334) 502-7777

February 14-15: Northeast Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association Educational Conference and Trade Show, Lee County Agri-Center, Verona, (662) 328-2111

February 21: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center Producer Advisory Council Meeting, Lee County Agri-Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

February 26: Central Region Producer Advisory Council Meeting, Central Mississippi

Research and Extension Center, Raymond (601) 720-8876

February 28: Mississippi Women for Agriculture 2013 Annual Conference, Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, (662) 325-3080

March 1-3: Gulf Coast Garden and Patio Show, Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi, (601) 919-8111

March 15-17: Jackson Garden and Patio Show, Trade Mart, Jackson, (601) 919-8111

Private Applicator Training

January 15: Calhoun County Extension Office, (662) 412-3177, 10:00 a.m. - Noon and 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

February 19: Calhoun County Extension Office, (662) 412-3177, 10:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Commercial Applicator Renewals All Categories

Excluding Aerial

May 14: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, 662-566-2201

January 8: Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, 601-857-2284

January 10: Panola County Extension Office, Batesville, 662-563-6260

January 16: Forrest County Extension Office, Hattiesburg, 601-545-6083

February 12: North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, 662-566-2201

February 14: Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, 662-686-3205

April 2: Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, 601-857-2284

April 4: Panola County Extension Office, Batesville, 662-563-6260

April 10: Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, 228-546-1001

2013 Delta Ag Expo Planned for January

By Stacey Swain

After four decades, the Delta Ag Expo is continuing to bring the agricultural community together to support and educate the members of Mississippi's largest industry. The 40th Annual Delta Ag Expo will take place January 16-17, 2013, at the Bolivar County Exposition Center in Cleveland. Farmers, along with all others interested in agriculture, are invited to take part in this great tradition.

For two days, the Delta Ag Expo will showcase innovative agricultural products and services, as well as the most up-to-date information from over 100 participating exhibitors. In addition, the expo provides an opportunity to meet face-to-face with leading industry experts such as Mississippi State University Extension specialists, who'll be on hand to answer questions and offer valu-

able advice.

Farmers will also find seminars and roundtable discussions very helpful in planning for the new year. A number of relevant topics will be discussed, including water management, marketing and ag economics, as well as various crop production updates.

The exhibit hall will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on January 16th and 8:30 a.m. - Noon on January 17th with seminars scheduled throughout each day. Admission to the public is free.

Contact Don Respass at (662) 624-3070 for additional information regarding the 40th Annual Delta Ag Expo.

Stacey Swain is Communication and Policy Advisor.

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Mississippi Garden & Patio Shows

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March 1 - 3, 2013
MS Coast Coliseum & Conv Ctr
Biloxi, MS

Jackson Garden & Patio Show
March 15- 17, 2013
MS Trade Mart
Jackson, MS

- * Retail Cash & Carry Shows
- * Potential to Boost Sales Income
- * Thousands of Excited Gardeners Ready to Buy
- * Advertise Your Business
- * If you sell anything or have a service that would be of interest to gardeners, the Mississippi Garden & Patio Show is the perfect place for you to exhibit!

Vendor Spots Available - 601-919-8111, www.mslna.org



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Muse Center, Pearl, MS



- !Educational Seminars
- !New Product Information
- !Latest Trends in Marketing & Business Management
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For More Information, Contact MNLA at 601-919-8111 or www.mslna.org.

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