

DENR Pesticide General Permit Requirement Extended To Oct. 31

PIERRE — The deadline has been extended seven months for the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to begin issuing permit coverage for pesticide application to waters of the state under the federal Clean Water Act.

The federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals determined in 2009 that discharge permits are required for the application of pesticides to water bodies. The court originally set an April 9 deadline to obtain the permits. At the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the court recently extended the deadline to Oct. 31 for coverage under the pesticide general permit.

Anyone who applies pesticides in or over water bodies must first obtain a discharge permit, under the federal court ruling. That includes pesticide application activities for mosquito control, weed and algae control in lakes, and even aerial application if there are wetlands on the property. In South Dakota, EPA has delegated the issuance of discharge permits to DENR under the federal Clean Water Act.

"The department worked diligently with the Department of Agriculture and pesticide applicators statewide to develop a permit that would cause as little disruption as possible to the regulated community," said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. "We applaud the recent court decision allowing an extra seven months before coverage is needed under this general permit."

DENR made a draft of the general permit available Jan. 21 for public review, and accepted comments for 30 days. After considering all the input, the department is prepared to finalize its permit. In light of the recent court decision, the permit will not become effective until Oct. 31. That allows South Dakota's pesticide applicators time to become familiar with the permit before the final compliance date of Oct. 31.

"We want to finalize South Dakota's general permit as soon as possible so our applicators will not be left wondering what the requirements will be this fall," Secretary Pirner said. "The department looks forward to working with applicators to make this permitting a smooth process."

The pesticide general permit is available on the department's website at <http://denr.sd.gov/des/sw/PesticidePermit.aspx>. For more information, contact Jonathan Hill at (605) 773-3351.

The Smell Of Concern

Stink Bug's Spread Worries Growers Across The Nation

BY DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

EMMITSBURG, Md. — An insect with a voracious appetite, no domestic natural predators and a taste for everything from apples to lima beans has caused millions of dollars in crop damage and may just be getting started.

The brown marmorated stink bug, a three-quarter-inch invader native to Asia, is believed to have been brought first to the Allentown, Pa., area in 1998. The bug began appearing in mid-Atlantic orchards in 2003-04 and exploded in number last year.

This spring, stink bugs have been seen in 33 states, including every one east of the Mississippi River and as far west as California, Oregon and Washington.

"All that we do know for certain is that a tremendously large population went into overwintering in fall 2010. So, if they survived, there could be a very large population emerging in the spring," said Tracy Leskey, a research entomologist at the U.S. Agriculture Department's Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville W.Va.

Growers in the mid-Atlantic region have reported the worst problems, and the apple industry appears hit hardest, with \$37 million in damage to growers in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, according to the U.S. Apple Association. That's about 18 percent of the Mid-Atlantic crop.

Mark Seetin, the association's director of regulatory and industry affairs, called it the worst threat to farmers he's seen in his 40 years in agriculture.

Growers in Washington state, the nation's biggest apple producer, haven't seen major damage so far, said Mike Willett, vice president for scientific affairs for the Yakima, Wash.-based Northwest Horticultural Council. The bug was first spotted in the state a couple years ago.

The bug, named for the foul smell it gives off when crushed, will feed on nearly anything, including cherries, tomatoes, grapes, lima beans, soybeans, green peppers, apples and peaches. It uses a needle-like mouth to pierce the skin of its host fruit or vegetable, leaving behind a spot that is disfigured and discolored.

Stink bugs wiped out up to 40 percent of Tom Haas' peaches last season at his Cherry Hill Orchards in Lancaster, Pa. The peaches



PHOTO: IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY/MARLIN E. RICE

looked so bad that Haas let the fruit fall to the ground, where it rotted.

"This is the worst, probably, that I've dealt with in 25 years," said Haas, the owner of the family-run orchard. "The damage they do to fruit is horrendous."

Damaged fruit is safe to eat, but the blemishes drastically reduce prices. Growers, for example, get about \$3 a bushel for apples sold cider, compared with \$30 per bushel for the best, pick-your-own apples.

At Catocin Mountain Orchard, about 10 miles south of the Maryland-Pennsylvania line, owner Robert Black said he didn't realize how bad the stink bug damage was until his apples ripened.

"My late varieties of Pink Ladies is what really took the damage," Black said. "We had a 50 percent damage there."

Federal researchers have set up devices in Black's operation and in eight other commercial orchards in Maryland and West Virginia to monitor the bugs.

Other scientists from North Carolina to New York are scrambling to fight back against the pests.

U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., began demanding federal ac-

tion last year after hearing from orchard growers in his western Maryland district.

For growers seeking immediate help, the best hope is an insecticide called dinotefuran, the active ingredient in the commercial products Venom and Scorpion. The chemical compound is labeled by the Environmental Protection Agency for use on vegetables, grapes and cotton, but not in orchards, as it is in Japan and other Asian countries.

The EPA said manufacturer Mitsui Chemicals Inc. didn't seek to have dinotefuran licensed for tree fruit applications when the agency approved the insecticide in 2004. Now the EPA is reviewing an emergency-exemption petition from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that could allow the compound's use in orchards in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia starting in mid-July.

At a recent meeting with growers at a Penn State research station in Biglerville, Pa., tree-fruit entomologist Greg Krawczyk warned that insecticides couldn't provide an easy solution.

"When you spray the crop with completely legal, viable insecticide, you will kill the stink bug, but the problem is that you will do it today, and a few days later you will have another whole group of them migrating from the outside," Krawczyk said. "So they just keep moving."

Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 30th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 25
Tuesday, May 31 newspaper — 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 25
Wednesday, June 1 newspaper — 5 p.m., Thursday, May 26
Thursday, June 2 newspaper — 5 p.m., Friday, May 27

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May, 30, 2011.

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Checkoff Works To Maintain Demand For '11 Soybeans Crop

ST. LOUIS — U.S. farmers have taken notice of the growth in global demand for U.S. soybeans maintained in part by the United Soybean Board (USB) and the soybean checkoff. According to the 2011 Prospective Plantings report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. farmers will plant 76.6 million acres of soybeans this year. USDA estimates this year's soybean crop may be 1 percent lower than last year. But if the numbers hold, the 2011 soybean crop could be the third-largest planted area on record.

"The checkoff has done a good job of keeping U.S. soybeans competitive in the market," says Jason Bean, soybean farmer from Holcomb, Mo., and chair of the USB production research program. "Checkoff dollars have provided research to ensure a good-quality U.S. soybean. If we have a desirable product, we'll be able to sustain and increase our demand."

Through work to increase market access and maintain demand for U.S. soy abroad, the checkoff helped U.S. soybean farmers post record-high exports for a fourth straight year last year. Domestically, the checkoff focuses on maintaining and creating demand by supporting U.S. animal agriculture as well as funding production research to protect and increase U.S. soybean yields and research on new uses for soybeans.

"The checkoff's production research program has done a good job supporting research to increase yields for U.S. farmers so that we're improving their opportunity for profit growing soybeans," adds Bean. "Another thing we've worked on with production research is high-oleic soybeans. That's a very desirable soybean, and we've done a lot of work and put a lot of money into research to develop that soybean."

High-oleic soybeans produce soybean oil with traits that are more desirable to both the food industry and consumers. With lower saturated fats and no trans fats in the oil they produce, high-oleic varieties could help soybean oil win back the market share it has lost to other vegetable oils. To help increase acreage, U.S. soybean farmers

can anticipate incentives to plant high-oleic soybeans.

USDA's final 2010 estimates concluded that U.S. farmers planted 77.4 million acres of soybeans last year and harvested 76.6 million acres. Average yield per bushel in 2010 decreased slightly from 2009, with 2010 bringing in 43.5 bushels per acre.

USB is made up of 69 farmer-directors who oversee the investments of the soybean checkoff on behalf of all U.S. soybean farmers. Checkoff funds are invested in the areas of animal utilization, human utilization, industrial utilization, industry relations, market access and supply. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soybean checkoff.

YANKTON DAILY PRESS&DAKOTAN

Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number.

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	2			7	9	8
		1				
3	6			4		
8			1	9		2
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CHALLENGING

CH BOOK 20 #2

Yesterday's Solution

4	9	1	6	2	7	8	5	3
3	2	6	5	1	8	7	4	9
7	8	5	3	4	9	6	2	1
1	6	2	8	5	4	9	3	7
5	7	3	2	9	6	1	8	4
8	4	9	7	3	1	2	6	5
9	3	4	1	8	2	5	7	6
2	1	7	4	6	5	3	9	8
6	5	8	9	7	3	4	1	2

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Check tomorrow's paper for the solution to today's puzzle.

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Vote **YES** For Kids

Paid for by Yes For Kids, Kyle Repp, treasurer.