



FireWall™ 17 WP Approved for Use Against Citrus Canker on Florida Grapefruit Under EPA Section 18 Emergency Exemption

(Mountainside NJ) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a specific exemption under the provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (FDACS) for the use of FireWall™ 17 WP to control citrus canker on up to 54,000 acres of Florida grapefruit.

Citrus canker, endemic in Florida since 2006, is a serious disease of most all commercial citrus cultivars, but grapefruit is by far the most susceptible species. Severe infections can cause defoliation, blemished fruit, premature fruit drop, twig dieback, and general tree decline. The Florida fresh grapefruit industry has lost approximately 30% of its value in the past 5 years due to losses attributable mainly to canker. Until now, season-long protection against canker in grapefruit has generally relied upon copper sprays, but copper can be phytotoxic during hot weather and may cause blemishes on the fruit surfaces rendering them unacceptable for fresh market.

Independent field trials using FireWall have been conducted by Dr. James Graham of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Citrus Research and Education Center (UF, IFAS-CREC). Graham reports these trials have demonstrated that “alternation of FireWall with a reduced rate of copper provided a similar reduction in diseased fruit with less copper burn (phytotoxicity) than the full rate of copper and that the residual activity of FireWall is greater than copper under tropical weather conditions.”

Some key stipulations of the Section 18 exemption for FireWall on Florida grapefruit for canker include:

- A maximum of two (2) applications by ground only at a rate of 2.0 lbs. FireWall product per acre;
- No more than 4 lbs. FireWall per acre may be applied per year;
- Applications of FireWall may be made at a minimum of 21 day intervals;
- A restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours and a pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 60 days must be observed;
- Apply only when a crop expert or FDACS determines the weather conditions favor canker development and there is an increased risk of phytotoxicity from the use of copper-based products.

All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered product label must be followed as well as those on the Section 18 use directions for FireWall. Refer to the FireWall Section 18 label for additional information and/or restrictions concerning its application to Florida grapefruit for canker control.

For more information about FireWall, please contact AgroSource by calling (908) 931-9001, or Emailing sales@agrosourcenet.net; or visit us on the web at www.agrosourcenet.net.