



## **FireWall™ 50 WP Approved for Use Against Citrus Canker on Florida Grapefruit Under EPA Section 18 Emergency Exemption**

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(Tequesta FL) 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 (FIFRA) to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (FDACS) for the use of **FireWall™ 50 WP** to control citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*) on up to 54,000 acres of fresh market grapefruit grown in the state of Florida.

Since EPA first granted a specific exemption for FireWall to fight citrus canker on Florida grapefruit in September 2012, commercial Florida grapefruit growers have had a full year's experience with FireWall in their battle against this foe. Endemic to Florida since 2006, citrus canker 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 since 2006 to losses often attributable 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."

The current specific exemption is for **FireWall™ 50 WP** on commercially grown grapefruit in Florida for control of citrus canker. **FireWall™ 50 WP** is equivalent to FireWall 17 WP, except that it has a higher concentration of active ingredient. This significantly higher analysis for **FireWall™ 50 WP** means much less product to transport, store and handle and significantly fewer empty bags and cartons left for disposal.

All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered label for **FireWall™ 50 WP** must be followed as well as those on the Section 18 label for **FireWall™ 50 WP**. Refer to the **FireWall™ 50 WP** Section 18 label for additional information and/or restrictions regarding its application to Florida grapefruit. Always read and follow label instructions. For more information about FireWall™, please contact AgroSource at (908) 931-9001, or email at [sales@agrosource.net](mailto:sales@agrosource.net); or visit us on the web at [www.agrosource.net](http://www.agrosource.net).