



FireWall™ 50 WP Section 18 Emergency Exemption Renewed by EPA for Use Against Citrus Canker on Florida Grapefruit

(Tequesta FL) Effective July 1, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has renewed the 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 on up to 54,000 acres of fresh market grapefruit grown in the state of Florida. This renewal expires July 1, 2016.

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. 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, much of which can be attributed 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 of the points of the Section 18 exemption for **FireWall™ 50 WP** on Florida grapefruit for canker management include:

- A maximum of two applications are permitted at 11 oz. per acre, each application. Applications at lower rates are not permitted.
- Minimum number of days between applications: 21. The Pre-harvest Interval (PHI) is 60 days.
- If possible, tank-mix with another bactericidal product having a different mode of action.
- Application should be made only when the crop expert or FDACS determines weather conditions favor disease development and there is an increased risk of phytotoxicity from the use of alternative pesticides (i.e. copper-based pesticides).
- Do not use in groves in which current practices include fertilization with animal manure.
- Apply only by certified pesticide applicators for use on commercial grapefruit production.

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™ 50 WP** Section 18 label for additional information and/or restrictions concerning its application to Florida grapefruit for canker control. Always read and follow label instructions. For more information about FireWall, please contact AgroSource by calling (908) 931-9001, or Emailing sales@agrosource.net; or visit us on the web at www.agrosource.net.