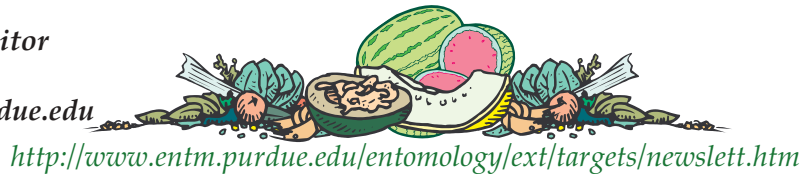


VEGETABLE CROPS HOTLINE

A newsletter for commercial vegetable growers prepared by the
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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2002 FARM BILL PROVISIONS FOR PLANTING FRUITS AND OR VEGETABLES ON BASE ACREAGE - (*Liz Maynard*) - In a previous issue of this newsletter (#405, May 23, 2002) Allan Gray wrote about impacts of the 2002 Farm Bill on planting flexibility with reference to specialty crops. The Farm Bill prohibits planting of fruits or vegetables on base acres that are in the program the year fruits or vegetables are planted, with some important exceptions. The penalty for planting fruits or vegetables on program acres is an acre for acre reduction in program payments plus a penalty equal to the value of the harvested fruit or vegetable crop assigned by the State Farm Service Agency. This article outlines in what cases fruits or vegetables may be planted on program acres without incurring a penalty equal to the value of the fruit or vegetable crop.

There are three situations when fruits or vegetables planted on pro-gram acres will not incur this penalty: 1) when the farm has a history of fruit or vegetable production; 2) when the producer has a history of fruit or vegetable production, and 3) when the fruit or vegetable is double-cropped in a county where double-cropping of fruits or vegetables is an established practice.

Farm History Exception - If a farm has a history of fruit or vegetable production, then

any fruit or vegetable may be planted, in any amount, either on base acres that are in the program or on other acres on the farm. A farm is considered to have a history of fruit or vegetable production when the farm, as defined by a particular Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm number, has a history of planting fruits or vegetables in any year from 1991 to 1995 or 1998 to 2001, AND that history is certified in the computer records of the FSA for that farm.

Example: Mr. Jones wants to rent 50 acres of land from Mr. Smith to grow watermelons in 2003. Mr. Smith's Farm is a total of 600 acres. 300 acres are declared as soybean base acres and 300 acres are declared as corn base acres for the year 2003. However, in 1995, Mr. Smith had recorded with his county office 20 acres of tomato production on his farm. This means that Mr. Smith's farm has a certified history of vegetable production with the FSA,

so any amount of the base acreage may be rented to Mr. Jones for watermelons, with only an acre for acre reduction in the amount of direct payments and counter cyclical payments.

Producer History Exception - If a producer has a history of fruit or vegetable production, he may plant those fruits or vegetables for which he has a history on program base acres on any farm. There will be an acre for acre reduction in direct payments and counter cyclical payments, but no additional penalty. The program acreage planted to any one type of fruit or vegetable may not exceed the producer's historical acreage for that specific fruit or vegetable. The history must be based on either the period from 1991 to 1995, OR the period from 1998 to 2001. The history must be documented with the FSA. If no history for that producer is on file with the FSA, the producer may create a history by supplying documentation. To document a history, the producer must show two things for each year of the period he has chosen (either 1991 - 1995 or 1998 - 2001). First, the producer must document existence of the crop on a certain number of acres. Records of inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, plants, mulch, drip-tape; records of activities such as planting, applying pesticides, scouting and harvesting can be used to document existence of the crop. Second, the producer must document disposition of that particular crop. What happened to the crop after harvest? Dated sales

receipts showing the quantity of the crop sold are one way to show disposition. If sales receipts aren't available, contact the county FSA office to discuss other possibilities for documentation. If these types of documentation are not available, third party verification may be used. The third party verification may be used to document either existence of a crop, or disposition of a crop, but not both. Note that a producer history belongs to an individual person or business entity and may not be transferred or inherited.

Example: Mr. Hope has a history of growing 20 acres of pumpkins. In 2003 he wants to rent 20 acres of land from Mr. Morton to grow pumpkins. All of Mr. Morton's land is contracted either to corn or soybean base acres. Because Mr. Hope has a history of growing 20 acres of pumpkins, he may plant 20 acres of pumpkins on Mr. Morton's base acres, with only an acre for acre reduction in the amount of the direct payments and counter-cyclical payments.

Double-Cropping Exception - No penalty is assessed and there is no reduction in direct payments and counter cyclical payments when a fruit or vegetable is double-cropped before or after a covered commodity in the following Indiana counties: Allen, Bartholomew, Gibson, Hamilton, Jackson, Knox, LaGrange, Lake, LaPorte, Madison, Miami, Posey, Sullivan, Vandenberg and Warrick. These counties were determined by the State FSA Committee.

Keep in mind that these restrictions apply only to acres that have been declared as base acres for the current Farm Bill, and they apply only in years when a farm is enrolled in the program. Producers have until April 1, 2003, to establish base acres that will be used for the duration of this Farm Bill. Each year producers can decide which farm to sign up for the program for that year. The deadline for enrolling a farm in the program for 2003 is June 1. If a farm is not enrolled in the program for a particular year, there are no restrictions on what may be planted.

PESTICIDES IN THE VEGETABLE GREENHOUSE: LAWS, LABELS, AND LESSONS - *(Dan Egel and Fred Whitford)* - Forget the cold and snow outside. Imagine it's April. You walk into your transplant greenhouse only to discover that you have a pest problem. Perhaps you find spider mites on tomatoes. Or perhaps you notice gummy stem blight on watermelons. Later, in your pesticide storage shed, you reach for the same pesticide that was affective against the pest last year in the field. Suddenly, you find yourself wondering, is it OK to apply this pesticide in a greenhouse?

It's a good question since insects and diseases tend to flourish inside the hot, humid environments that greenhouses provide. The answer to this question is, to coin a well-known extension phrase, it all depends! It depends on what the label says or doesn't say as to how the question can be answered. (Of course, telling growers to read the label first is nothing new.) In general (another well-worn Extension phrase) the answer is 1) yes, 2) no; it's illegal, or 3) we can't recommend it, but you can use at your own risk. Let's look at our answers based on different scenarios.

Scenario 1. Our yes answer is supported by language found on the Kocide 2000 label. Kocide 2000 is a fixed copper compound that vegetable growers might use to combat bacterial diseases such as tomato bacterial spot and bacterial fruit blotch of watermelon. The twelve-page label, with instructions for use in the field and in the greenhouse, clearly states "Kocide 2000 may be used in greenhouses and shadehouses to control diseases on any crop on this label where physiology allows greenhouse or shadehouse culture. Specific directions are presented for Citrus, Cucumber, Eggplant, Pepper, and Tomato." This is found on page 3 of the label. You can then turn to page 9 and find the heading Greenhouse and Shadehouse Crops, and find specific instructions on disease control for citrus, cucumber, eggplant, pepper and tomatoes. Again, the answer to the question, can this pesticide be used in the greenhouse is yes.

Scenario 2. The label language found in Bravo WeatherStik will be used to clarify the no answer. Under the section of the label titled "General Precautions and Restrictions" the label says, "Do not use on greenhouse-grown crops." In this case, the manufacture is quite clear that they do not want this specific brand name product to be used in the greenhouse. Case closed!

Now that we have the easy yes and no answers out of the way, lets try and tackle the more difficult situations.

Scenario 3. The label of Dithane F45 clearly states "Dithane F45 fungicide is a broad-spectrum fungicide recommended for outdoor or greenhouse grown crops". You look up what vegetables this fungicide can be applied to and you find asparagus, all types of corn, cucumbers, fennel, gourds, all types of melons, onions, potatoes, and squash. That's wonderful, except when you read how to mix up the product for greenhouse use, you only find rates per acre.

In a situation such as the one above, it is critical to follow the label to the letter. If it is not possible follow the applications instructions for greenhouse use, do not use the product in the greenhouse.

Scenario 4. You have a crop that is found on the label, but the words greenhouse is nowhere to be found. A good example would be the information found on the Thiodan 3EC label for cucumbers. This label does not prohibit nor does it recommend its use for cucumbers in

the greenhouse. The label is what is termed "silent" on the subject of use in the greenhouse.

The examples provided in scenarios 3 and 4 are difficult for us in Extension to answer. We really have three answers and we allow you to pick the one you want.

Answer 1. Unless the label prohibits the use in the greenhouse (scenario 2), if you find your crops on the label then you can legally use the product. However, you have to follow all of the recommendations intended for the field in your greenhouse applications. Following label instructions is critical. Remember, the first sentence under the "Directions of Use" indicates "It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling". What that means is that you are held liable by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist and EPA for not following instructions.

Answer 2. Contact the manufacturer home office to see whether the product can be used in the greenhouse. However, you better write the names down of the persons who allowed the use since most product warranties do not pay for damages even when their representatives say you can use it in violation of the label instruction

Answer 3. This is where we in Extension say from our perspective of erring on the side of safety that the product cannot be used. It's not a legal answer, but one that we feel very comfortable making since the research to support its use is lacking or the manufacturer is not willing to put this on the product label. In fact, the label for Kocide 2000 makes it clear that it's buyer beware when using their product on vegetables that do not have specific greenhouse use instructions. It states, "Kocide 2000 may be used in greenhouses and shade-houses to control diseases on crops which appear on this label and specific instructions have been developed for crops listed. The grower should bear in mind that the sensitivity of crops grown in greenhouses and shadehouses differs greatly from crops grown under field conditions. Neither the manufacturer nor seller has determined whether or not Kocide 2000 can be used safely on all greenhouse and shadehouse grown crops."

What the above label does provide are instructions to the grower to determine if Kocide 2000 can be used safely prior to commercial use. The label states, "In a small area, apply the recommended rates to the plants in question and observe for 7 to 10 days for symptoms of phytotoxicity prior to commercial use". It also provides excellent information such as "Apply Kocide 2000 according to specific rates given for those crops in pounds per acre. One level tablespoon of Kocide 2000 per 1000 square feet is equivalent to 1 pound per acre". This is an excellent label with clear instructions to the grower. We wish they were all this good.

And lastly, can we use this pesticide in the greenhouse is always a no with extension specialist if the crop is not listed on the label. As most of you are aware, any pesticides we apply to crops must have a

tolerance established with EPA. For use in extension, it doesn't matter if you know it works against an insect or disease. If the crop is not on the label, then it's illegal to use.

What we've presented so far is in the best interest of us in Extension. We want to make sure that our recommendations work, and that you will come back to us with questions. We want to give you the best answers possible, and be right 100% of the time! We won't go out on a limb when your greenhouse transplants and vegetables-your investment, source of income, and livelihood are at stake.

But what's in your best interest as the grower? It seems obvious that you want to protect your crops against the insects and diseases that are all too common in the greenhouse. And we understand that your livelihood depends on producing quality and abundant crops. Yet, on the other hand, if you experience any negative effects from the use of the product, you rightfully expect the company of the product to stand behind their products. But companies would only guarantee their products if used according to label directions. In the event that you applied a product that says do not use in the greenhouse, then their obvious answer is no. What we will never know is whether they will stand behind their product when the greenhouse is not listed on the label. In this case, it is buyer beware.

As always, you the grower must make up your own mind on how much risk you are willing to take. The decision to use a product is an important consideration. Be safe and use products labeled for greenhouses, labeled for the transplants or vegetables that you will grow in the greenhouse, and with instructions written for greenhouse use. If you do this, then we can help clarify any questions that you might have on the specific products, and it will be a pleasure serving you.

2003 INDIANA HORTICULTURE CONGRESS AND TRADE SHOW - (Announcement) - The IHC is an annual event sponsored by several Indiana horticultural associations, the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. The continuing success of the Congress is due to the people around the state who work hard to meet your commercial interests and to the strength of the educational programs and trade show. The programs will help you improve your business performance by providing you with updates on production practices, pesticides, food safety, produce quality, specialty crops, market opportunities, and

other new concepts. Programs for organic growers have been expanded. There are several concurrent sessions, which have been scheduled so that subjects geared to particular interest groups run consecutively. On the IHC web page you will find information on events, schedules of the educational programs, and forms that you will need to register and make hotel reservations. Exhibitors will also find information about the trade show, including the exhibit space application and the hotel's forms and maps. You can visit it at: www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/hortcongress.

The 2003 Indiana Horticultural Congress will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241, (317) 248-2481. See the map in the program for driving directions. If you are flying, the hotel is just one mile from the Indianapolis International Airport. The hotel provides free shuttle service to and from the airport. Congress registration fee, at the convention, for members of the following organizations, IVGA, IHS, IFMA, and IWG is \$55.00 per person and \$65.00 for non-members. This admits one (1) person to most educational sessions and the trade show (spouse and children under 16 are free). IHC registration for additional members of your operation is \$20.00 per individual.

The Trade Show features a wide range of exhibitors including commercial seed, agricultural equipment and general supplies for growers and retail roadside marketers. We encourage you to visit the exhibits located in the Hall of Champions. The Trade Show will be open on Monday from 12.00 noon to 6:30 pm, Tuesday from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm and Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A silent auction will be held to benefit the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Support Fund and the Vegetable Extension and Research Fund. These funds have been used in part to purchase some of the audio-visual equipment used here at the Congress and at regional meetings around the State. They also help to show the University that growers support and appreciate the efforts of Purdue staff. Many of the exhibitors at the Congress have donated great "stuff" to the auction and the bidding is always fun. Look for the Auction Display in the exhibit hall and in exhibitors' booths - and make your bids. You will need to keep checking until Wednesday at 11:45 am when the bidding will be closed. Auction results will be announced at the Wednesday luncheon. We can still use additional items for the auction, so if you would like to donate an item, please call or email Liz Maynard (219) 785-5673, Tom Roney (317) 326-2278, or Dick Hayden (765) 463-6587. Just let us know which fund you wish to support.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY - (Kevin Gibson) - Have you ever wondered why you have weed problems every year? Would you like to optimize your weed management practices? We have begun a research project this year, funded by North Central IPM and SARE, to determine the relationships among weed management systems, weed species, and weed control. To conduct this research, we need farmers to participate in the project by completing questionnaires and by allowing us access to their fields during the summer to survey weeds. We are interested in conventional, integrated and organic vegetable crop production, particularly tomatoes and pumpkins. **We recognize that your time is valuable and we will pay \$30 for each completed questionnaire.** If you are interested in this project, please contact Dr. Kevin Gibson, (765) 496-2161 or kgibson@purdue.edu.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 22-23, Illinois Specialty Crops Conference, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL. For information, contact: Diane Handley, (309) 557-2107.

January 27-29, Indiana Horticulture Congress, Adams Mark Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. For information, contact: Peter Hirst, (765) 494-1323. See the article in this issue for more details on this meeting.

February 4-6, Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. For information, contact: Maureen Irvin, (717) 677-4184.

February 5-6, Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days, Mendel Center, Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI. For information, contact: Mark Longstroth, (616) 657-7745.

February 20, Starlight Vegetable Program Meeting, Joe Huber Farm, Starlight, IN. For information, contact: Roy Ballard, (812) 948-5470.

February 25-26, Ohio River Valley Farm Market Conference, Clarksville, IN. For information, contact: Roy Ballard, (812) 948-5470.

March 14, Southwest Indiana Melon and Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting, Quality Inn, 600 Old Wheatland Road, Vincennes, IN. For information, contact: Jerry Nelson, (812) 882-3509.

March 14-15, Illiana Watermelon Association Annual Meeting, Quality Inn, 600 Old Wheatland Road, Vincennes, IN. For information, contact: Stephanie Nowaskie, (812) 886-1051.

RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM NOW ONLINE - (*Cheri Janssen*) - You know about "three recertification programs in five years; two programs in one year for credit." And now add, "one of the three programs can be an online program."

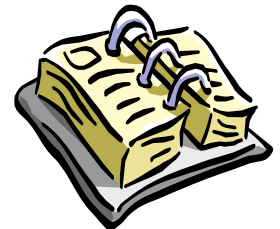
Private applicators with Internet access can now receive credit for a recertification program at their convenience. The first online program is "Aquatic Plant Management." After paying the \$10 fee (credit cards only) the private applicator receives a login name and password. They then have 90 days of unlimited access

to complete the 9 modules that make up the program. A self-evaluation quiz follows each module and must be completed before moving on to the next module. After completing the last module, the user triggers a message that will credit the program to their private applicator record. Programs will be credited only upon completion (not registration).

To find out more about the online recertification program go to Programs on the PARP website <www.btny.purdue.edu/PPP/PARP>. To register for the online program, call 1-888-EXT-INFO (398-4636).



If you haven't renewed your 2003 subscription to the Vegetable Crops Hotline - You are running on borrowed time. Please send your renewal form in today. Thank you.



2003 Vegetable Crops Hotline Subscription Form

The *Vegetable Crops Hotline* newsletter provides the commercial vegetable grower with timely information about disease, insect and weed pests, fertility practices, post-harvest problems, pesticide label changes, meetings and much more. Each year, the *Hotline* is published 13 times during the growing season with off-season issues in November and January.

Again this year, in addition to receiving the regularly scheduled *Hotline* issues, subscribers may also receive the *Vegetable Crops Hotline - BULLETIN* either by e-mail or FAX. This will require that subscribers to the 2003 *Hotline* indicate how they want to receive the bulletins. The *BULLETIN* articles will also appear in the next regularly scheduled *Hotline* issue along with other pertinent articles written by the Purdue staff.

To subscribe to *Vegetable Crops Hotline*, please fill in your name and address on the last page, and send this form and a check for \$15.00 made payable to Purdue University to the address below.

***Indiana Vegetable Growers Association members are automatically signed up for the *Vegetable Crops Hotline* at no additional charge.**

_____ Yes, I would like to subscribe to the 2003 *Vegetable Crops Hotline*. Enclosed is a \$15 check made payable to Purdue University.

Mail to: Vegetable Crops Hotline Subscription
Southwest Purdue Agricultural Program
4369 North Purdue Road
Vincennes, IN 47591.

***** (To update our records, please mark and complete the following) *****

I would like to receive the *Vegetable Crops Hotline - BULLETIN* via:

_____ e-mail address: _____

_____ FAX number (with area code): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ (home) and _____ (work)

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Vegetable Crops Hotline
c/o Chris Gunter
Southwest Purdue Agricultural Program
4369 N Purdue Rd
Vincennes, IN 47591