

Chlorothalonil Update

by Jean Scott

There has been quite a bit of confusion about the status of Daconil® and other chlorothalonil products. First a little history and then the particulars on the label changes you will see now and in the future.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was amended in 1988 and since that time the EPA has been conducting a comprehensive review of older pesticides, those registered before November 1, 1984, to consider their health and environmental effects and to make decisions about their future use. FIFRA was amended in 1996 by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and requires all pesticides meet new safety standards. This law substantially changes the way pesticides are evaluated, specifically for their health effects. The EPA must be able to conclude with "reasonable certainty" that "no harm" will come to infants, children and other sensitive individuals exposed to pesticides.

Whether or not a particular material will be discontinued or restricted depends on several factors. All pesticides must be reviewed under FQPA. Older materials are first on the list. As products come up for review the manufacturer evaluates the material to ascertain if sales of the product will justify the cost of the review. Many older materials are off patent and the registration cost cannot be justified. Only the holder of the original patent can decide whether or not to undertake the review process for a product. If the holder of the patent decides not to defend the label, no other manufacturer can apply for a label for the active ingredient. If the manufacturer decides to re-register the product then an evaluation must be done to assess the impact on the environment and human exposure by all the labeled uses. Under FQPA all uses count, including turf.

In the case of chlorothalonil, Zeneca, now Syngenta, purchased ISK in 1998 and became the holder of the patent. Originally, the EPA proposed eliminating all turf uses based on inaccurate assessments of the amount used on golf courses. After some intensive "re-education" efforts the EPA lowered their original estimate of the amount of chlorothalonil used on golf courses. However, they required the label to restrict use on home lawns in 1999. The proposed changes in the label have been negotiated with the EPA. At this time, the label has been finalized by the EPA. All new chlorothalonil products being labeled now have the following seasonal caps on the label. The a.i. per year is all chlorothalonil combined no matter what the source.

In addition to the seasonal caps on total amount of product used, the EPA now requires minimum spray intervals and maximum amounts that can be applied at any one time. The maximum amount that can be applied in one spray is 7.3 lb. a.i./acre, (8.8 lbs. of Daconil Ultrex) with the exception that 2 applications can be made per year at 11.3 lb.a.i./acre (14 lbs. of Daconil Ultrex). The minimum spray interval is 7 days for the lower 7.3 lb rate and 14 days for the 11.3 lb rate. The total of all sprays have to fit under the maximum seasonal cap. These limitations apply to all products containing chlorothalonil. If a product contains chlorothalonil, the amount in the product must be counted toward the seasonal cap.

Product purchased which has a previous label is not subject to the new restrictions. However, if you have product with the new label you must abide by the restrictions.

Many rumors have surfaced that chlorothalonil will be removed from the market in the next few years. The EPA is finished with the review and a label has been granted. There is a long list of products awaiting review under FQPA. It doesn't seem likely, unless some compelling evidence of immediate environmental or health risk is shown, that the EPA will revisit the chlorothalonil issue. Over three years of work went into the review of chlorothalonil by ISK and then Zeneca. Syngenta is committed to supporting the label at the federal and state level and welcomes any input and support from superintendents and end users. If you have any questions about the re-registration issue, please contact Dr. Mike Agnew at 610-444-2063 or Jean Scott at 410-742-5630 with Syngenta.

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Important: Always read and follow label instructions before buying or using these products.

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Treated area	a.i./ acre per year	Daconil Ultrex® Equivalent	Daconil® WeatherStik® Equivalent	Daconil ZN® Equivalent
GREENS	73 LBS	89 LBS	12.17 GAL.	17.5 GAL.
TEES	52 LBS	63 LBS	8.67 GAL	12.47 GAL.
FAIRWAYS	26 LBS	32 LBS	4.34 GAL.	6.24 GAL.