



ODA Pesticide Advisory

Above-Ground Use of Zinc Phosphide for 2024 Ended September 30th

Background

ODA has several FIFRA Section 24(c) Special Local Need (“SLN”) registrations that authorize above-ground application of zinc phosphide to grass seed and clover seed fields during a specific time period. The “start date” is determined each year in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that application does not begin until migratory geese have left the Willamette Valley. Grass seed and clover seed fields are particularly attractive to geese, which is why applications are restricted during their migration through Oregon.

The application period for 2024 was April 26th through September 30th. As stated on each SLN label: “Applications may be made through September 30, 2024, or until Canada geese and cackling geese have been observed in the [grass seed or clover seed] fields that were intended for treatment, whichever comes first.”

Significance

Recent geese deaths in Oregon have been linked to zinc phosphide. These incidents highlight the importance of proper use of zinc phosphide in grass seed and clover seed fields. As of October 1, 2024, no above-ground application of zinc phosphide may be made to grass seed or clover seed fields.

ODA also has SLN registrations which permit below-ground, hand baiting of zinc phosphide in grass seed and clover seed fields year-round. Applicators must follow all applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the SLN label and the labeling from the main container of the zinc phosphide product. When applying zinc phosphide below ground, the product must be applied down the hole leading to underground burrow systems. It cannot be applied around the system mouth or on the surface. Past versions of some of the below-ground SLN labels included a statement indicating the product could be applied “at the system mouth.” This statement was included in error, as such application would be above-ground. This statement has since been deleted from the below-ground SLN labels in which it appeared.

For more information about zinc phosphide use in Oregon, please contact: pesticide-expert@oda.oregon.gov