



For Immediate Release

May 8, 2019

Western Plant Health Association Statement to the Press Regarding Cancellation of Chlorpyrifos

On Tuesday, May 8th, Cal-EPA announced that DPR would begin a cancellation process for the registration of chlorpyrifos.

Chlorpyrifos has already undergone the most conservative re-evaluation of a pesticide in the history of California. Despite this extraordinary review, the agencies and departments of Cal-EPA found that chlorpyrifos can be used safely if use guidelines are followed. As such, WPHA is opposed to this effort as being inappropriate, and will result in unnecessary negative impacts on California growers.

As stated by Corteva, the primary registrant of chlorpyrifos, "Chlorpyrifos is one of the most widely studied crop protection products in the world and is currently registered in roughly 100 countries, including the U.S., all major U.S. trading partners and in the EU. This proposal disregards a robust database of more than 4,000 studies and reports examining the product in terms of health, safety and the environment. A predictable and transparent regulatory review process based on sound science is not only critical for maintaining grower access to existing tools, but is also a requirement for the kind of continued innovation that California's regulators are encouraging."

Cal-EPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld stated during his press conference that Governor Gavin Newsom would be seeking \$5.7 million dollars for a task force to review alternative products to replace chlorpyrifos. WPHA believes that until the task force can provide a recommendation, which should include a successful product replacement finding based on products being safe, efficacious and cost effective, that the state should not begin any cancellation process. California's growers are faced with a unique risk to pest diseases because of our moderate climate, diversity of crops and the number of tourists that visit the state and unintentionally transport new pests in on an almost weekly basis. California must assure that crops and farmers are protected from pests before needed tools are eliminated.