MEMORANDUM

TO: Agricultural Extension Agents and Interested Parties
FROM: Dennis Howard, Chief, Pesticide Regulation Section
SUBJECT: Section 18 Approval of the use of Bifenthrin (Bifenture EC, Bifenture 10DF and Brigade WSB), to control Brown marmorated stink bugs on apples, peaches and nectarines.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recently approved the Maryland Department of Agriculture's request for a specific exemption under section 18 of FIFRA. This exemption allows the use of 3 products (Bifenture EC, Bifenture 10DF and Brigade WSB) to control Brown marmorated stink bugs on apples, peaches and nectarines. This Specific Exemption expires October 15, 2013.

Under this specific exemption, Bifenture EC, EPA Registration No. 70506-277, Bifenture 10DF, EPA Registration No. 70506-57, manufactured by United Phosphorus, Inc. and Brigade WSB, EPA Registration No. 279-3108, manufactured by FMC Corporation may be applied to apples, peaches, and nectarines.

Applications must be made post-bloom, by ground only, at a rate of 0.08 to 0.2 lb. per acre: no more than 0.5 lb. a.i. per acre may be applied per year; multiple applications may be made at a minimum of 30 day intervals; a restricted entry interval (REI) of 12 hours and pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 14 days must be observed. All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA – registered product labels, must be followed, as well as those on the Section 18 use directions.

A maximum of 3,570 acres of apples, peaches and nectarines may be treated under these specific exemptions.

To help minimize exposure to pollinators the following statements on the application timing must be observed: "Do not apply this product until after petal fall." To mitigate risks of aquatic organisms, the products label requirements must be strictly followed. For ground applications (the only application method allowed under this exemption) a 10 ft. vegetative buffer strip, or 25 ft. buffer zone is required between the site of application and adjacent bodies of water.

Recommendations on the products label regarding droplet size, wind direction and speed, temperature inversions, and other factors affecting off-site drift or runoff of bifenthrin must also be carefully followed.
In addition, the following statements from the product labels are reiterated:

1. This pesticide is extremely toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates. Use with care when applying in areas adjacent to any body of water. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present or to intertidal areas below the mean high water mark. Do not make applications when weather conditions favor drift from treated areas. Drift and runoff from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in neighboring areas. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters.

2. This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds while bees are actively visiting the treatment areas.

3. The use of bifenthrin is prohibited in areas that may result in exposure of endangered species to bifenthrin. Prior to use in a particular county contact the local Extension service for procedures and precautions to protect endangered species.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Pesticide Regulation Section shall immediately be informed of any adverse effects resulting from the use of this pesticide in connection with this exemption.

Your help in disseminating this information is greatly appreciated.

DWH: dh
cc: Section 18 file