

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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## EPA Opens Transparency Window into Pesticide Registration Decisions

**By Gene Burgess**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is establishing a new transparent process that will allow the public to review and comment on risk assessments and proposed registration decisions for pesticides. This expanded process will apply to all new pesticide active ingredients and first food uses, first outdoor uses, and first residential uses.

"This new process will give the public greater opportunity to participate and understand decisions about new pesticides," said Steve Owens, EPA assistant administrator for the office of prevention, pesticides and toxic substances. "The Obama Administration's emphasis on providing unparalleled transparency at EPA will increase credibility and strengthen the reputation of our pesticide registration program while improving the public dialogue surrounding controversial pesticide registration decisions."

Starting October 1, 2009, for certain registration actions, EPA's risk assessment and proposed decision will be added to the public docket and made available for a 30-day public comment period. Following the comment period, EPA will publish its decision and a response-to-comment document. By focusing public access on new pesticide ingredients and first food, outdoor, and residential uses, the public will have the opportunity to comment on all major new exposure patterns for pesticide registration.

Stakeholders now will get information sooner on reduced-risk pesticides being registered that can replace some of the older and often more toxic pesticides. The user community and the public will benefit from a broader understanding of the risk assessment and risk management processes associated with pesticide registration.

Note: Excerpted from *EPA Pesticide Program Update*

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## Disulfoton and Methamidophos Voluntarily Canceled

**By Darrell Hensley**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final order approving the voluntary cancellations of pesticide products containing disulfoton (Di-Syston) and methamidophos (Monitor). The order was published in the Federal Register on September 23, 2009 and cancels the last disulfoton and methamidophos products. These organophosphate insecticides are registered for use on a variety of food crop and non-food sites, including disulfoton use on residential ornamentals. The EPA received no comments in response to a July 22, 2009 notice announcing the agency's receipt of the requests for voluntary cancellation.

For all methamidophos products and most disulfoton products, the cancellations are effective December 31, 2009; two disulfoton products will be canceled effective December 31, 2010. Use of the disulfoton and methamidophos products canceled by this order may continue until existing stocks are exhausted, provided that use is consistent with approved product labeling. The registrants may sell and distribute existing stocks of most disulfoton products and all methamidophos products until December 31, 2010; two disulfoton products may be sold and distributed by the registrant until June 30, 2011.

For more detailed information, please see EPA's September 23, 2009 Federal Register notice in disulfoton docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0054 and methamidophos docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0842 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The Federal Register notice also is available at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2009/September/Day-23/p22921.htm>.

## Stored Grain

**By Russ Patrick**

A very innovative producer called me the other day to get my blessings on a pest control method he wanted to use. He said his cost for DiaconII was approximately \$800 per gallon and it would cost him over \$3,200 to treat his corn which was going to be stored in the grain bins. He wanted to use a less expensive alternative. I told him to consider using Tempo insecticide. Tempo is available in two formulations and the WP formulation is a little cheaper than the Ultra SC liquid formulation. I indicated that he would need to treat both the floors and inside walls as high as he could spray. Next, I suggested that he should use Insecto, which is diatomaceous earth inside the empty bin. Insecto has the consistency of talc powder, so he would need to blow it in the bins to get thorough coverage. He said he was going to apply some on the corn as he bins it. This is a much cheaper way to treat your grain if you did not want to use the DiaconII or pyrenyl. I wish he could have purchased Actellic 5E for a reasonable price, because it was one of the best materials for insect control when grain is retained over long periods. This producer is going to bag quite a lot of grain since he has run out of bin space. We plan to monitor his bins and bags since he wants to hold stored grain until March 2010. Sometimes we have to use what we can afford and I admire him for attempting to use various pest control methods.

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Here are some tips for treatment of an empty bin. This will require only a few minutes. One 25lb. bag of Insecto at a cost of only \$2.50/lb. (\$62.50) + \$15.00 S/H = \$77.50

1. Clean the bin.
  2. Measure the INSECTO.
  3. Turn on the aeration fan that blows into the bin.
  4. Pour INSECTO into the air flow as fast as the fan will allow.
  5. When dust starts blowing out the top of the bin, turn off the fan -- you are finished!
- See Insecto's Application Rate Chart. You may visit them at: [www.insecto.com](http://www.insecto.com) or they may be reached at 1-800-332-2002.

## Will We Have a Lady Beetle Swarm This Year? Don't Know, Better Prepare!

**By Karen Vail**

### **Predicting the Day of the Invasion**

According to predictions by Ohio State University (OSU) IPM Program personnel, Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles (MALB) start searching for overwintering sites, your home, on the first or second day when temperatures are warm (greater than 65°F) after a dramatic drop in temperature, usually to near freezing. The MALB invasion started on October 6, 2004 in Minnesota. In Knoxville, the peak flight occurred around October 20 or 21, 2004. In 2005, the peak flight never occurred in Tennessee. The swarm was probably delayed because of the mild temperatures through mid-November followed by cold temperatures from mid-November to December. It just didn't get cold enough to trigger the swarm before temperatures turned too cold for the swarm to occur? We have not received any information about large peak flights since 2004. If you experience large numbers of lady beetles entering a structure this year, please email me the address and the date when the activity first occurred.

### **Vertical Contrast and Not House Color Influence Attractiveness of Homes to MALB**

Research from North Carolina revealed **vertical contrast**, such as black shutters against light colored walls, shadows cast by a chimney, white shutters against a dark background, is attractive to beetles. Color of the house will not matter in attractiveness to the beetle. After all, they are looking for a crack in a white/light-colored cliff or rock outcropping.

### **Management**

**Conduct Steps 1 and 2 by late September/early October, before MALB start their invasion.**

1. Pest-Proof: seal entry points, keep window screens intact, screen vent openings, etc., before the beetles arrive. (See our UT Extension Service SP 503C Lady Beetles Invading Homes [<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/spfiles/SP503-C.pdf>] for more specific recommendations on sealing entry points.)

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2. Treat roof lines or soffits, vertical contrast areas, and entry points (**around** the outdoor items - windows, doors, vents, pipe penetrations) with pesticides before the beetles arrive. According to Ohio State University results, professional products such as Demand CS (lambda-cyhalothrin), Suspend (deltamethrin) or Talstar (bifenthrin) provided 96, 95, and 84% effectiveness at 3 weeks post-treatment, respectively, when applied to vinyl siding. Products available to homeowners, such as Terro Ant Killer (0.2% permethrin w/PBO) and Bayer Advanced Home (0.1% cyfluthrin) provided 96 and 92% effectiveness at 3 weeks post-treatment. Retreatment in 3 weeks may be necessary, especially if beetles have not invaded yet and if rain has been common.

3. Remove dead beetles as they pile up because they may cause other MALB to aggregate.

**4. If the beetles make their way into the home**, vacuum or try a light trap (see description below). Insert a knee-high nylon stocking into the extension hose or wand of a vacuum or dry vac and secure the stocking with a rubber band (see <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hse-fact/1030.html>). When the vacuum is turned off, remove the stocking so the rubber band will close around it, thus catching the lady beetles. You can then discard the contents of the stocking. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter to prevent allergens from becoming airborne.

Refrain from using foggers indoors because they will not kill the majority of lady beetles which are hidden, they increase your exposure to insecticides unnecessarily and could supply dermestid beetles (carpet beetles, larder beetles) and other scavengers with food.

**Trap Updates from OSU.** A commercial black light trap caught 90% of the lady beetles released into an OSU study room. The manufacturer, Southeastern Insectaries, (<http://southeasterninsectaries.com/photo5.html>, 877-967-6777 or 478-988-9412, 478-988-9413 (fax), [sei@windstream.net](mailto:sei@windstream.net)) has upgraded this **indoor** light trap and suggests it is most effective when it doesn't compete with sunlight and, to a lesser degree, other light sources. Thus, it is best operated during the night with no or limited competing light sources or in dark spaces such as attics or crawl spaces. These traps are mobile and should be moved to the rooms with the most beetle activity. If the beetles can't see the light, it won't work. Traps work best when the room is warm, about 75 to 85 degrees F. Two traps, a Black Vengeance 180 and a 360, are available for sale. The 360 has two lamps and attracts beetle from all directions, while the 180, you guessed it, attracts lady beetles from 180 degrees. The 360 costs \$99 and the 180 is \$83. The traps will not kill the beetles, but catch the beetles so they can be removed from the structure. Do not use the traps outdoors or where they can get wet or damp.

The Ohio State University IPM Staff developed an inexpensive trapping device for use in homes. In their tests, the homemade trap caught about 70% of the released beetles in a room. During a presentation, Dr. Joe Kovach, OSU, mentioned that an incandescent bulb worked as well as a black light tube, but a black light incandescent bulb was not very effective. The homemade trap worked better if the funnel and collecting container (both plastic milk jugs) were painted black and dusted with talc. Descriptions of the homemade light trap can be found at <http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/L.T.instr.htm>.

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While camphor and menthol may be repellent to lady beetles, more research is needed to make the formulations last longer. Camphor cakes or crystallized camphor can be put in a knee-hi nylon stocking, the stocking knotted and hung outside of the house near known entry points; or cotton balls containing a few drops of camphor essential oil can be placed in the corner of the windows, but the oil will need frequent re-application (<http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/methods.htm>).

### Sources:

Jones, S.C. and J. Boggs. 2001. HSE-1030-01 Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle. Ohio State University Extension. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hse-fact/1030.html>

The Ohio State University Web Site, Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle <http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/lady.htm>

Suggested Treatment Method for the Multi-Colored Asian Lady Beetle (MALB). The Ohio State University Integrated Pest Management Program. <http://ipm.osu.edu/lady/methods.htm>

Vail, K. 2004. Lady Beetle Update Spring 2004 - "The Game Is Won or Lost in October". In "What's Happening?" University of Tennessee Extension, Entomology & Plant Pathology - EPP #60, Volume No. 1 - March 5, 2004. <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/wh2004/Issue-1-04.htm>

## January Pesticide Safety Education, PSEP, Meetings Rescheduled

### By Gene Burgess

In the October 2, 2009 *What's Happening* newsletter, it was announced that the Commercial Applicator, CA, certification ITV training in CORE, C3 and C7 and the licensing training in HLT, GRC, WDO and PHMC would be cancelled for the month of January, 2010. There has been a change in plans. These meetings will be held as previously scheduled. Please help us advertise these meetings to you clientele.

## OTHER UT NEWSLETTERS WITH PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

### Fruit Pest News

<http://web.utk.edu/~extepp/fpn/fpn.htm>

### Tennessee Crop and Pest Management Newsletter

[http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton\\_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm)

### Ornamental Pest and Disease Update

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/ornamentalnwsltr.html>

### School IPM Newsletter

<http://schoolipm.utk.edu>

### Tennessee Soybean Rust Hotline - 877-875-2326

### USDA Soybean Rust Web Site

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

### Pesticide Safety Education Program, PSEP

<http://PSEP.utk.edu>

### IPM & Pest Management

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TN-PMIN/FYI/FYI.html>

### Entomology and Plant Pathology Web Site

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu>

### This and other "What's Happening" issues can be found at

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/whatshap.htm>

## Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

## Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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