

From: Herb A. Teas [HerbT@nwwinc.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2002 6:32 PM  
To: NOP, Webmaster  
Cc: Herb Steffen (E-mail)  
Subject: Spinosad petition

Mr. Mathews,

I am supporting the petition for organic certification of Spinosad.

I am Field Service Manager for Northwest Wholesale, Inc., a supplier of growing advise and materials to the tree fruit industry in central Washington State. We have many organic growers as our clientele.

Organic growers are being severely pressured by the increase of codling moth populations through out the growing territory. Until the economics of the apple industry improve this pressure will increase from abandoned and poorly farmed orchards. Mating disruption alone will not control codling moth, adding Bt formulations and petroleum spray oils helps, but have also failed to control severe infestations. Spinosad, in combination with mating disruption would be a stronger tool than the organic apple or pear grower currently has available to him.

The organic cherry grower does not have a good material to control Cherry Fruit Fly, which is a quarantineable pest. This would allow an organic cherry grower some assurance that he could succeed and ship his crop across state lines.

In the western part of the state, apple maggot has become established. That is outside of our trade area and I have no direct knowledge of the growers and acres involved, but Spinosad would also control this pest very well and perhaps help prevent spread into the major apple producing areas.

A final consideration is the use of Spinosad to control lepedoptra pests in all fruit crops. The organic grower now relies almost entirely on Bt; another reliable compound for this use will slow the development of pest resistance, which is inevitable with continued use of a single compound.

Thank you.

Herbert A. Teas  
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