

From: Kevin Kropp [kskropp@rosalinda.paonia.com]
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2002 1:41 AM
To: NOP, Webmaster
Subject: spinosad petition

Dear Mr. Mathews, I am an organic grower of 15 years farming 200+ acres of certified organic tree fruits including apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, and apricots. Farming fruit organically has always had it's challenges but here of late, with the disappearance of ryania which we used successfully for many years for pest control, we have had a very difficult time controlling pests in our orchards. Currently we use spinosad(which is organically approved in Colorado) very successfully for control of western cherry fruitfly on cherries, for thrips on nectarines, and for twig borer on peaches. Because the Gerber Baby Food co. (which buys much of our fruit does not accept certified organic fruit sprayed with spinosad, we have not used this product on our apples or pears. Having no approved organic material to spray for codling moth on both apples and pears, many of our blocks were devastated by this pest to the point where they were unharvestable. This was an economic devastation with losses near \$200,000. This would have been avoidable had spinosad been available to us under a certified organic label outside Colorado. Mr. Mathews as you can see, we desperately need this product. Please inform other powers that be that we need spinosad under a certified organic label. Thank You, Kevin Kropp