BIOSECURITY ALERT

As part of citrus canker eradication in the Northern Territory a herbicide mixture is used to treat the stumps of plants identified for removal.

Citrus canker is a serious disease of citrus

To assist in the eradication of citrus canker from the Northern Territory, the Citrus Canker Program applies a herbicide and diesel mixture directly to cut stumps. The herbicide is used to prevent plant regrowth.

An approved permit (PER86726) has been issued for the emergency use of Garlon 600 herbicide (Garlon) by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for cut stump application. The permit is in effect in the Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australia (WA) from 2 July 2018 to 31 July 2028. Garlon has been used in previous eradication programs for citrus canker in the NT, WA and Queensland.

What is Garlon 600 herbicide?

Garlon is a commonly used, registered herbicide containing the active ingredient Triclopyr. It is a systemic herbicide meaning that once it is applied it is absorbed into the plant and will only kill the plant it is applied to and not surrounding plants. This minimises exposure to people, pets and other non-target species.

Garlon has a short residual life. In soil Triclopyr is broken down by microbial activity and has a half-life of 10-46 days. Triclopyr is not strongly absorbed by soil particles and readily photodegrades. Plant health inspectors adhere to strict procedures that aim to prevent the herbicide coming into contact with soil.

Triclopyr is a slight eye and skin irritant if the chemical contacts the skin or eyes directly. Plant health inspectors apply Garlon in such a way that exposure to the general public is miniscule.

How is Garlon 600 herbicide used?

The Citrus Canker Program uses a concentration of 2.5 per cent Garlon mixed with diesel (125ml of Garlon in 5L of diesel). The label states diesel as the recommended herbicide carrier for Garlon. Mixing Garlon with diesel makes the herbicide more cost-efficient and reduces the risk should spillages occur.

The Garlon mixture is applied using a paintbrush directly to the stump after a stem or trunk of the plant is cut. The process of painting the tree stump with the mixture is repeated until the stump stops absorbing it. The stump is then covered with a plastic cap and fixed with a screw. A yellow sticker is placed on the cap with the date of herbicide application. Stump caps are left in place for at least eight weeks as a safety measure to prevent people or animals coming into contact with the herbicide.

After a minimum of six weeks, plant health inspectors will return to the premises to check for any plant regrowth. This check for regrowth is to ensure that citrus canker is not present on the stump of the plant.

References:

http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg_Garlon_600.htm

Product label: https://www.corteva.com.au/content/dam/dpagco/corteva/au/au/en/products/files/LINK_LABEL_Garlon.pdf

Garlon 600 Safety Data Sheet: https://www.corteva.com.au/content/dam/dpagco/corteva/au/au/en/products/files/Garlon_600_Herbicide_SDS_Oct_2016c.pdf

Contact us via:
Call or text: 0436 643 470
Email: citruscanker@nt.gov.au
Web: Visit www.nt.gov.au/citruscanker for more information on the disease

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT