

US EPA reviews Biopesticides

Biopesticides are featured in US EPA preliminary work plans. Four sets of biopesticides will be reviewed. The EPA has opened public dockets for: frost protectants/bactericides, *Pseudomonas syringae* and *P. fluorescens*; the parapheromones, farnesol and nerolidol; and the plant growth regulators nematicides fungicides, chitin and chitosan.

These materials are considered to be low risk with no new health or environmental risk assessments expected. The only new data requirements, anticipated, relate to the identity of the *P syringae* and *P fluorescens* strains. The reviews are scheduled for completion in 2008.

There are three registered strains of *P syringae* and two of *P fluorescens*,. The first approvals were granted in 1992. The reassessment of tolerance exemptions was conducted in 2002 and an endangered species assessment was carried out in August. *P syringae* and *P fluorescens* reduce the growth of frost-forming bacteria on leaves or blossoms and improve the control of fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*).

Registered in 1987, Farnesol and nerolidol are parapheromones used as mite attractants in association with acaricides. Ecological risk assessments were undertaken this year, with the conclusion that their use would have no adverse effects on endangered species.

Chitin and chitosan are naturally-occurring polymers. Chitosan is used as a plant growth regulator and fungicide, and chitin is used for controlling soil-borne nematodes. Chitosan was first registered in 1986 and chitin in 1988. EPA expects endangered species assessments to be completed in October.