



# VEGE *notes*

Your levy @ work

## Minor Use Program

Growers of horticultural crops frequently suffer from a lack of legal access to crop protection products. The problem is that whilst their crops are valuable, individually they are too small for agrochemical companies to bear the high cost of registering products for use on them. For larger crops it is also difficult when the pest or disease is only localised or infrequent.

Growers are increasingly trapped in a situation where they face severe loss (from diseases, pests and weeds) if they do nothing to protect their crops, or face penalties if they use a product that is not registered.



*Purple Blotch disease on an onion crop.*

Horticulture's access to pesticides through minor-use permits is now coordinated and managed by AgAware Consulting Pty Ltd, under the Horticulture Australia Ltd project: AH04009 'Coordination of minor use permits for horticulture'.

The project aims to assist all horticulture industries (including vegetables) to protect their crops from diseases, insects or weeds, by providing access to pesticides that wouldn't otherwise be legally available for use. This will be via minor-use permits and/or new registrations. The project will undertake the assessment of chemical suitability, resistance, IPM, residues and exports in its evaluations.

Specifically, the project aims to assist growers to:

- Protect their crops from pests, weeds and diseases
- Solve crop protection problems
- Manage chemical resistance
- Meet legal requirements regarding chemical use
- Ensure produce does not contain unacceptable chemical residues
- Meet the requirements of quality assurance systems and export markets

The project will do this by:

- Undertaking a coordinated approach to permit acquisition across all horticultural industries in association with stakeholder and regulatory authorities
- Determining data requirements and costs to obtain registrations/permits for pesticides
- Setting up cost sharing arrangements and funding across horticultural industries regarding data generation
- Coordinating registrations/permits with the regulatory authorities (APVMA)
- Providing feedback to individual industries on registrations and permits granted.

### The Bottom line

- Growers are required to only use registered or permitted pesticides on their crops.
- Not all vegetables have the range of pesticides available to maximise production and quality.
- The project allows growers to access pesticides currently not available.
- The pesticides selected will give consideration to chemical suitability, resistance, IPM, residues and exports in its evaluations.
- The vegetable industry needs to become more proactive in managing diseases, insects, weeds and pesticides.

| Permit Number | Permit holder | Crops  | Active             | Problem                             | Expiry date | States applicable |
|---------------|---------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| PER4402       | Ausveg        | Tomatoes                                       | Abamectin          | Western Flower Thrips               | 30/09/2005  | All states        |
| PER6792       | Ausveg        | Broccoli, Brussels sprout, Cauliflower         | Copper oxychloride | White Blister ( <i>Albugo spp</i> ) | 31/10/2005  | All states        |
| PER7416       | Ausveg        | Lettuce  | Imidacloprid       | Lettuce Aphid                       | 30/06/2005  | All states        |
| PER7629       | Ausveg        | Cucurbits, eggplant, tomato, lettuce, broccoli | Pymetrozine        | Silverleaf Whitefly                 | 31/03/2006  | NSW, QLD, NT, WA  |
| PER8186       | Ausveg        | Leafy vegetables                               | Phosphorus acid    | Downy Mildew                        | 24/01/2010  | All states        |

There are many examples where this approach to permits has helped the vegetable industry. The above shows just a few examples.

If you, as a vegetable grower, manager or consultant have any requests for pesticides to control diseases, insects or weeds, please provide your requirements to the project management, your industry development officer or industry representative. Or the information required can be simply added to the table and forwarded to AgAware.

Please note that all information provided will be treated with strict confidence.

The vegetable industry is very aware of the possible consequences that can occur from the use of unregistered or non-permitted pesticides. These can include:

- Produce with unauthorised chemical residues present
- Rejection of produce from local markets
- Temporary exclusion from market access
- Rejection of produce from export markets
- Jeopardising of export trading arrangements
- Fines and penalties

It is not worth the risk to your crop and income to use unregistered or non-permitted pesticides

| Crop eg. vegetable | Product eg. Vermitec | Active eg. abamectin | Problem eg. Two spotted mites | Rate required eg. 100 g/100L | Any current control methods | Damage eg. fruit blemish | Impact eg. loss of value |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                    |                      |                      |                               |                              |                             |                          |                          |
|                    |                      |                      |                               |                              |                             |                          |                          |

on your vegetables. Your involvement in this project will assist you to access the pesticides you require and address the chemical residue issues.

There is also an opportunity for growers to highlight any pesticides they are currently using that are causing or may cause concern in export markets.

The vegetable industry needs to become more proactive in the way it manages diseases, insects, weeds and pesticides. If there are any diseases, insects or weeds you believe are a problem now, or may be in the future, or you are using pesticides that may cause trade, environmental, worker or consumer concerns now or in the future, please let us know by recording them in the table.

### Further information

If you have any queries or require any assistance, please contact Peter Dal Santo on Ph: 03 5439 5916 Fax: 03 5439 3391 or email: [pds@agaware.com.au](mailto:pds@agaware.com.au)

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Peter Dal Santo, AgAware

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