



Another Major EPA Registration Milestone Reached for the Abscission Agent CMNP

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(Mountainside, NJ) AgroSource Inc., on behalf of the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC), submitted the CMNP Section 3 full registration petition to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early January 2011. This action follows the submission of Section 5 Experimental Use Permit (EUP) and Temporary Tolerance (TT) petitions to the EPA by AgroSource in late December 2009.

CMNP is a plant growth-regulating agent that selectively loosens mature oranges, thus facilitating and significantly increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of mechanically harvested fruit. Mechanical harvesting of Florida oranges has reached a level of about 35,000 acres each year – approximately 7% of the total in the state. With the introduction of CMNP, however, mechanically harvested oranges in Florida will likely increase for two reasons: 1) since CMNP loosens mature fruit from the stems and not immature fruitlets, *Valencia* oranges receiving a CMNP application are expected to be mechanically harvested later in the season without significantly reducing the following year's crop; and 2) because CMNP accelerates the natural loosening of mature fruit, its application to orange groves already mechanically harvested can increase the percent of fruit removed by this harvesting method, and thus significantly reduce gleaning costs. Both of these developments should translate into increased efficiency of mechanical harvesting equipment and labor resources for the Florida citrus industry, thereby increasing its competitiveness in the world markets. CMNP has been extensively tested and evaluated by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) in Florida orange groves over the past decade.

The CMNP project is a collaborative effort between the Florida Citrus Industry, FDOC, IFAS and AgroSource. All parties have made multi-million dollar investments in CMNP. On behalf of the industry, the Citrus Harvesting Research Advisory Council (comprised of growers, harvesters, processors) appointed by the Florida Citrus Commission has an advisory role for the project. AgroSource, as the EPA authorized agent, will oversee the EUP for FDOC and manufacture the product. EPA has formally set the EUP/TT decision date for July 14, 2011. Upon full registration, AgroSource will commercialize and steward CMNP to the Florida citrus industry. As milestones are achieved, AgroSource will provide regulatory updates that can be found on the AgroSource website at www.agrosourcenet.com/CMNP_Registration.html.