January 2017

Request for information regarding use of pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide

Dear Cannabis Producer,

The three agencies responsible for cannabis and pesticide regulation—Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC)—are issuing a request for information regarding the application of pesticide products containing pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide. The information will help the state improve its understanding of what influences pesticide residue levels on cannabis and enhance the state’s ability to help cannabis producers effectively use pesticide products that contain pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide.

Both of these pesticide active ingredients are currently on ODA’s Guidelist for Pesticides and Cannabis. It appears that some producers are using pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide successfully. However, some samples of cannabis submitted by other producers have been found to far exceed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) action levels. We are trying to better determine why some producers are able to use these active ingredients without exceeding the action levels while others are failing the test.

If you used pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide, and your cannabis “passed” OHA’s action levels, please contact ODA at (503) 986-4553 to provide specific information. You will be asked about the product(s) used, rate, timing, and other information related to your use of these products. Details on use from both “passed” and “failed” tests will help us understand practices that would allow and maintain the availability of pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide for use on cannabis.

All three agencies will continue to work together and with the cannabis producer community to address issues important to your business. We recognize that pyrethrins and/or piperonyl butoxide can be useful tools and we want to help retain the listing of these active ingredients on the ODA Guidelist. Information you can provide will support our efforts and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.