



## ODA Pesticide Advisory

March 10, 2026

### **Use of Pesticides for Onion Maggot Control in Onion Cull Piles Awaiting Burial**

To prevent the emergence of onion maggot, onions must be buried (or otherwise disposed of) by a specific date. The eradication requirements and designated Onion Maggot Control Area in Malheur County are under the authority of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-052-0360.

OAR 603-052-0360 requires that onion cull piles must be landfilled, chopped and soil-incorporated in the field, composted, diverted for animal feed, or buried. As a final option, the control order states that “If inclement weather prevents plowing, the culls will be **treated with an EPA-labeled insecticide** [...] until proper disposal occurs.”

The ODA Pesticides Program has identified the following EPA-labeled insecticides that can be applied legally to onion cull piles for onion maggot control:

- EPA Reg. No. 70299-17, AzaGuard (BioSafe Systems, a.i. azadirachtin)
- EPA Reg. No. 5481-559, Ecozin Plus 1.2% ME (AMVAC, a.i. azadirachtin)
- EPA Reg. No. 89152-4, Ecoworks EC (Ecostadt Technologies LLC, a.i. neem oil)

**This Advisory applies to cull onion piles located in grower fields only.** Products other than those listed above may be available. Only pesticide products specifically labeled for applications to cull piles may be used for onion maggot control in onion cull piles. *Products labeled solely for onions growing in fields cannot be applied to cull piles.*

When applying any pesticide product, you must follow the label affixed to the container in your possession. Below are examples of label language that allow application to cull piles:

- "COMPOST AND MANURE TREATMENT: Manure or refuse piles, mulches, cull piles, pretreatment for potting soils or compost for greenhouses, soil application with no mention of crops to be grown (potting soil, topsoil)."
- "NON-CROP USES- Manures, manure piles, composts, compost piles, poultry litter, poultry litter piles, cull piles, biochar, mulches, potting soil, granular fertilizers, top soil, crop waste dumps, farm yards, fuel storage areas, fence rows, rights of way, fallow land and barrier strips."

Growers and processors making pesticide applications to onion cull piles are hereby advised:

1. Applications of pesticide products on cull piles are NOT a cure-all solution. Onion maggots may continue to emerge from deep within the piles.

- Pesticides applied over the top surface of cull onions should only be expected to provide temporary control of onion maggot.
- More than one application may be necessary, but application rates, maximum number of applications, and all applicable precautions and restrictions on the product labels must be followed.

2. Contact the ODA Pesticides Program\* if you have questions about which pesticide products can be applied to onion cull piles.

3. Pesticide applications to cull onion piles must be conducted by applicators using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as required on the product label. All personnel entering treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) for the pesticide, e.g., to move or bury the treated onions, **must** be provided the PPE prescribed on the label for early entry workers.

4. Cull onions that are treated with pesticides may not be repurposed as animal feed, as indicated by the product label.

5. It is advisable to limit livestock and wildlife access to treated cull onion piles.

\*Contact the ODA Pesticides Program, 503-986-4637, [pesticide.registrations@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:pesticide.registrations@oda.oregon.gov)

