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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
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MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL POLICY—DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL PESTICIDE AS IT RELATES TO CHAPTER 29 SECTION 5

Revised July 24, 2020

BACKGROUND

The Board discussed questions that arose during the spring of 2016 relative to interpretation of the term “biological pesticide” as used in Section 5 of Chapter 29, which regulates pesticide applications for control of browntail moth adjacent to marine waters. The staff pointed out that when this rule was originally written, it contemplated that “biological pesticide” would primarily include strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis* and similar microbial pesticides. With the recent increase in browntail moth populations, questions have arisen about other active ingredients which are derived from organisms. Staff indicated that the term “biological pesticide” is now commonly perceived to include pesticide active ingredients consisting of single cell organisms or products derived from organisms. At the January 11, 2017 meeting, the Board reviewed various options and adopted an interpretation of the term “biological pesticide,” which was subsequently amended at the March 31, 2017 meeting.

In 2019, continued interest in expanding the number of available biological pesticides prompted the BPC to reevaluate the list of biological pesticides. Qualitative and quantitative risk assessments were used to determine the active ingredients appropriate for this use.

POLICY

For the purposes of Chapter 29, Section 5, the term “biological pesticide” includes any microbial pesticide that contains the microorganism and byproducts normally associated with the organism, as approved by the Board.

As of July 24, 2020, the Board has approved:

Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies *kurstaki*
Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies *aizawai*
Beauveria bassiana
GS-omega/kappa-Hxtx-Hv1a
Isaria fumosorosea
Kaolin Clay
Spinosad

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