

CPDA's Biorational Products Initiative

Overview

In response to increasing demand for natural and organic production of food and fiber, the market for non-synthetic pest control agents and plant production aids that are derived from natural materials continues to grow. These new products are manufactured and marketed by some CPDA members and are described in the marketplace by terms such as "biorationals," "biopesticides," "biostimulants," "bio-yield enhancers," etc. However, other than the term "biopesticide," which EPA has defined for registration purposes, there are no standard definitions of these terms. Upon approval of the CPDA Board of Directors, CPDA formed the Biorational Products Working Group (BPWG) and began the process of developing standard definitions through ASTM International. During October 2010, the ASTM subcommittee E35.22 approved the formation of a Biorationals Task Force (BTF) to develop and approve definitions. Between January and May 2011, CPDA staff continued to work on this initiative, including (1) participation in BTF and E35.22 subcommittee meetings to develop and ballot standard terminology related to biorational products, and (2) discussions with EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) program staff to educate them on those products and CPDA member interest in possible inclusion of biorational products in the DfE program.

Update

During July and September 2011, CPDA coordinated and participated in several discussions with representatives of the Biopesticide Industry Alliance (BPIA) and the Biostimulants Coalition (BC) to inform them of the BTF activity and to solicit their participation in developing the ASTM standard for biorational terminology. Based on the BPIA and BC input, the BTF re-balloted the standard's scope and the terms "biorational" and "biostimulant" for voting and discussion at the November 2011 ASTM meeting. During the October 2011 meeting of the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, EPA proposed the establishment of a work group to examine the potential for including biopesticides in the current DfE pilot program for antimicrobials. The work group will look to develop criteria for evaluating the inclusion of biopesticides in the DfE program, thus allowing biopesticide product labels to bear the DfE logo.