

Agricultural Chemical Usage, 2011

Fruit – Apples, Peaches

By Adam W. Pike

The following chemical use data is the most recent data available.

This release is a brief summary of data for on-farm use of commercial fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and pest management practices from producers of apples and peaches for the 2011 crop year taken from the estimates published by the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Washington, D.C. These estimates for Pennsylvania and other states are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Chemical_Use/index.

Information in this report is collected from the Fruit Chemical Usage Survey (FCUS). The primary objective of the survey is to provide data to develop an agricultural chemical use database that is timely, detailed, and reliable. Data collection occurred between October and December of 2011. The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report focus on the acreage treated and application rates for herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and other pesticides. The survey also collected information about production practices.

Fungicides were applied to 71 percent of the state's bearing apple acreage. A total application of 261,200 pounds was made. Captan was the most commonly used active ingredient with 108,500 pounds of the chemical applied to 63 percent of all bearing acres. An average of 6.2 applications was made at a rate of 1.307 pounds per acre. Seventy-one percent of the total bearing acres of peaches was treated by fungicides. A total of 68,300 pounds was applied. Sulfur was the active ingredient used in the largest volume with a total of 30,100 pounds applied, while captan was the fungicide most commonly used, applied to 53 percent of the total bearing acreage.

Herbicides were applied to 35 percent of the total bearing acres of apples in Pennsylvania. A total of 22,000 pounds were applied to that acreage. Pendimethalin was the active

ingredient used in the largest volume with a total of 6,600 pounds applied, while Paraquat was the herbicide most commonly used, applied to 18 percent of the total bearing acreage. Twenty-eight percent of the total bearing acres of peaches was treated by herbicides. A total of 4,100 pounds was applied. Again, Pendimethalin was the active ingredient used in the largest volume with a total of 1,300 pounds applied, while Paraquat was the herbicide most commonly used, applied to 19 percent of the total bearing acreage.

Insecticides were applied to 72 percent of Pennsylvania's bearing apple acreage. A total of 56,700 pounds was applied. Phosmet was the active ingredient used in the largest volume with a total of 13,300 pounds was applied, while Spinetoram and Spinetoram-L were the insecticides most commonly used, applied to 49 percent of the bearing acreage. Sixty-nine percent of total bearing acres of peaches were treated by insecticides. A total of 10,500 pounds was applied. Phosmet was the active ingredient used in the largest volume with a total of 4,200 pounds was applied, while Lambda-Cyhalothrin was the insecticides most commonly used, applied to 46 percent of the bearing acreage.

Other chemicals were applied to 60 percent of bearing apple acreage in the state. A total of 133,700 pounds was applied. Mineral oil was the most commonly used active ingredient with 131,500 pounds of the chemical applied to 37 percent of all bearing acres. An average of 1.7 applications was made at a rate of 9.961 pounds per acre. Twenty percent of the total bearing acres of peaches was treated by other chemicals. A total of 8,200 pound was applied. Again, mineral oil was the most commonly used active ingredient with 8,100 pounds of the chemical applied to 13 percent of all bearing acres. An average of 1.3 applications was made at a rate of 10.696 pounds per acre.

