

1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene (055802) Fact Sheet

Summary

1,4-Dimethylnaphthalene occurs in potatoes, where it naturally inhibits sprouting. As a pesticide active ingredient, it is used as a plant growth regulator to inhibit sprouting of potatoes during storage and shipping. No harm is expected to the public, the environment, or applicators if label directions are followed.

I. Description of the Active Ingredient

1,4-dimethylnaphthalene normally occurs in potatoes in high enough concentrations to prevent sprouting. Under suitable conditions, the concentration of this substance decreases in the potato, thus allowing buds to develop.

OPP Chemical Code: 55802; (CAS #571-58-4)

II. Use Sites, Target Pests, and Application Methods

- **Use Sites:** Closed storage sites and shipping containers for food or feed potatoes.
- **Uses:** Temporarily prevents potatoes from sprouting
- **Application Methods:** The substance is released as an aerosol into a closed shipping container or other enclosed space filled with potatoes. Applicators leave the enclosed area as soon as aerosol release begins. Reapplication is necessary every few months. Reentry time is 30 minutes.

III. Assessing Risks to Human Health

No adverse effects to humans are expected from eating or handling treated potatoes. Applicators must wear protective equipment to prevent eye, skin, or lung contact with 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene.

IV. Assessing Risks to the Environment

No risks to the environment are expected from use of 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene because 1) it is used only in enclosed areas so that exposure is extremely limited; 2) it is not toxic to mammals or birds when they ingest it; 3) it is naturally broken down by the potatoes. The chemical is toxic to aquatic organisms, and the label tells users not to contaminate bodies of water.

V. Regulatory Information

Year of Registration of Active Ingredient: 1994

Number of Registered End Products (as of January 2001): 3

VI. Registrant Information

D-I-1-4, Inc.
PO Box 860
Meridian, ID 83680

VII. Additional Contact Information

[Ombudsman, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division](#) (7511P)
Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460