

November 21, 2011

We were just recently notified that the North Carolina Special Local Needs label for Velpar (hexazinone) application in highbush blueberry was cancelled in March 2010. This Special Local Needs label set the preharvest interval (phi) at 50 days, meaning that Velpar could not be applied within 50 days of harvest. With the cancellation of the Special Local Needs label for North Carolina 2010, the current Federal label now sets the phi at 90 days. In 2012 North Carolina blueberry growers must apply Velpar early enough in the season to have a 90 day phi. This change will most likely mean applying Velpar earlier than usual. We are working with DuPont and other researchers through the IR-4 program to conduct residue studies to again reduce the Velpar phi to 50 days prior to harvest. Once the residue trials are completed, the package will be assembled and sent to the EPA for review. We are hopeful that we will receive a favorable response from the EPA which will allow DuPont to include a 50 day phi on the main Federal label or to reinstate the special local needs label for North Carolina allowing the 50 day phi. Unfortunately this will not be a quick process. This may take up to 2 to 3 years before the label is changed.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Katie Jennings at 919-740-4500 or at Katie_jennings@ncsu.edu.