



August 29, 2015

CA Pomegranates Exported to Australia

NOW Control Advisory Notice:

During the 2015-2016 export season Australia will be looking closely for Navel Orange Worm (NOW) in CA pomegranates. Last season there were 19 interceptions on-arrival, which is close to 10% of the total exported volume to Australia. And, as of August 2, 2015, there has already been one detection of NOW on-arrival in Australia. It is crucial that NOW be excluded from the export pathway quickly and effectively to ensure that we have a successful 2015-2016 export season.

Based on the information presented at the Pomegranate Export Workshop at Kearney Ag Research Extension on August 27th **it is recommended that all pomegranate orchards that are expected to export to Australia make a pre-harvest application of Altacor (Chlorantraniliprole) for NOW control.** Because of the current timing it is too late for many standard NOW controls: field sanitation, trapping and insecticide spray during peak flights. This leaves one last pesticide application and post-harvest fruit screening and cutting as the last measures to exclude NOW from the pathway.

Successful exclusion is heavily dependent on close communication among packing houses, shippers and growers to evaluate the quality and condition of the fruit and orchards.

USDA APHIS is working closely with the industry and county Ag Commissioners' offices to secure the Australia export market after a difficult 2014-2015 season. We appreciate your cooperation during this time and will be conducting facility and orchard visits during the course of the season. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact our staff.

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