



Manager, Fenthion Review
APVMA
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Submission to APVMA on Fenthion Review

The Custard Apple industry in Australia is represented by Custard Apples Australia Inc (CAA).

There are 140 custard apple growers in Australia, mainly on the east coast between the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland and Coffs Harbour in NSW, with some growers north of Perth. All these areas are endemic to either Queensland fruit fly or Mediterranean fruit fly. The industry is valued at over \$5million.

As custard apples are considered very susceptible to fruit fly damage and fruit is harvested in the autumn to spring months, control of fruit fly in the crop is essential. The majority of growers use weekly protein baits to control fruit fly and in most cases this is highly affective. However, in very wet years, if the baits fail and infection takes place, cover sprays of Fenthion are needed. This might only occur once or twice in a very wet season.

Custard Apples have quite a short harvest season, and if severe infestation occurs of which protein baits cannot control, without the ability to use 1 or 2 Fenthion cover sprays producers are at a high risk of losing the majority of their crop for that season. Fenthion cover sprays are not used regularly each season – they are used as a ‘last resort’ counter measure when standard baiting practice has failed or proved ineffective during prolonged periods of wet weather. There are no other practices or chemicals available to be used in this instance, other than Fenthion.

The industry is very concerned that if Fenthion is not available, there are no back ups for if fruit fly infestation may occur.

Custard Apples Australia would like the APVMA to take this into consideration and allow as a minimum, 1 or 2 Fenthion sprays a year on custard apples.

Regards,

Secretary CAA

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