June 20, 2019

Are there any pesticides legal to apply to hemp in Indiana?

The bottom line is that the U.S. EPA has the legal authority to review and approve pesticide products for use on hemp, or any other use for that matter, and their process will probably take years to catch up to the pest management needs of hemp producers.

So where does that leave us in the mean time? Most pesticide state lead agencies, like the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), are currently scrambling to try to answer these legal pesticide questions for their newly legalized hemp production industry. A few states may have a head start on Indiana because hemp and other cannabis crops have been in various stages of “state-legal” production for several years now.

States are researching and reviewing a variety of criteria to identify pesticide products that may be suitable for legal use in managing some pests in hemp production. OISC, likewise, is actively working to establish criteria and to identify a list of state-registered pesticide products that meet those criteria.

OISC anticipates deliberating the state criteria setting process with the Indiana Pesticide Review Board at their next quarterly meeting scheduled for August 7, 2019. One advance word of caution, however, just because OISC may be able to identify some pesticide products that may meet legal requirements for use in hemp, it doesn’t guarantee that those products will effectively control the pest.

Questions may be directed to Sarah Caffery at 765-494-1587 or scaffery@purdue.edu.

Relevant links:


Indiana Pesticide Review Board meeting on August 7, 2019: [https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/iprb.html](https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/iprb.html)