

Section 18 Sought for *Neofabraea* Control

The Olive Oil Commission of California is working to secure tools for olive oil farmers to help control *Neofabraea*, known to cause fruit spot, leaf spot and lesions in olives. *Neofabraea* is an emerging disease that continues to be found in California's super-high-density olive oil orchards.

The OOC is submitting a Section 18 application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to secure an emergency exemption for use of Ziram. If approved, it would authorize the use of this fungicide manufactured by United Phosphorus Inc. Ziram was found to provide improved control of *Neofabraea* when compared to the use of copper hydroxide (Kocide) in a study conducted by Dr. Florent Trouillas and funded by the OOC. Florent is a UC Cooperative Extension Specialist stationed at the Kearney Agricultural Research Center in Parlier. A report on Dr. Trouillas' findings can be found [here](#).

Ziram is currently not approved for use on olive trees in California and thus the OOC is seeking Section 18 registration under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. This allows for emergency exemptions for growers to use pesticides in specific geographic locations and time periods. The OOC's Section 18 application seeks approval for use in the areas most severely affected by *Neofabraea* which includes the counties of Colusa, Glenn, Yolo, Butte, Stanislaus, Tehama and San Joaquin.

The most likely time of infection for olive oil trees is after the trees sustain damage from harvesters. Taking the peak infection time into consideration, the *Neofabraea* Section 18 application is focused to allow Ziram application immediately following harvest and again in the early-winter months when the risk of infection is greatest. The OOC's hope is to secure the Section 18 registration in time for winter applications in 2019.

Pending EPA's approval of the Section 18 in conjunction with Florent Trouillas' extensive research, the OOC plans to apply for a permanent registration of Ziram through the IR-4 process. IR-4 is a federally funded program that works with farmers, agricultural scientists, and extension personnel to conduct research on tolerances for specific pesticides, biological pest control agents and biochemicals so they can be registered by the EPA. If the Section 18 is granted, chances of securing permanent registration are greatly improved.

In the coming months, the OOC will have more updates on the status of the Section 18 application for Ziram. Questions about control of *Neofabraea* can be addressed to Dr. Trouillas. He can be reached at (559) 646-6566 or via email at flotrouillas@ucdavis.edu