



STOP USE NOTICE: ORGANIC INPUT MATERIAL AGRO GOLD WS

December 4, 2020

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) issued a statewide quarantine on December 4, 2020, for the product **AGRO GOLD WS**. The product **AGRO GOLD WS** has been distributed within a co-packed box that also contains the product WEED SLAYER, an herbicide also listed as approved for use in organic agriculture.

The product **AGRO GOLD WS** is labeled and registered as an organic fertilizing material, but has been found to contain both Diquat and Glyphosate. Sale and use of this product thus poses a public health risk because the product was found to contain herbicides not disclosed on its label.

Pursuant to FAC section 46024(a):

It is unlawful for any person to advertise, label, or otherwise represent that any fertilizer or pesticide chemical may be used in connection with the production, processing, or distribution of products sold as organic if that fertilizer or pesticide chemical contains a prohibited material.

Effective immediately, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Organic Program (SOP) is issuing this STOP USE notice for **AGRO GOLD WS**, manufactured by Agro Research International LLC. **AGRO GOLD WS** samples have tested positive for the presence of synthetic chemical compounds Diquat and Glyphosate, which are both prohibited for use in organic production by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program under 7 CFR §205.105: Allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in organic production and handling.

California operations must IMMEDIATELY discontinue the use of Agro Gold WS on land registered as organic. Continued use of this product in organic production may jeopardize the organic status of your operation. Registered organic operations in possession of **AGRO GOLD WS** must hold the product and contact the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program at FMIP@cdfa.ca.gov. CDFA will aid operations on how to handle product in their possession.

If you are in possession of **AGRO GOLD WS** and wish to appeal the determination that the product contains Diquat and Glyphosate and thereby is in violation of the Food and Agricultural Code, you have fifteen (15) days from receipt of this Notice to do so pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code section 14659. Submit your appeal to the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program at FMIP@cdfa.ca.gov.

Growers may need to update their Organic System Plans (OSP) to reflect the discontinued use of this product. Please direct any OSP or compliance questions to your accredited certifier. For additional questions about this notice, you can contact the SOP at CDFA_Organic@cdfa.ca.gov.

