VII. Insecticide Residues, etc.

POLLINATOR PROTECTION--ORTHENE (ACEPHATE) ON MINT

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During 1983-84 Orthene was tested for honey bee toxicity on an isolated, blooming, 40-acre mint field. In 1983, we compared evening vs. morning applications of Orthene at 1.0 AI/a and in 1984 we tested Orthene at 1.0 AI/a plus Bond (a sticker) at 8 oz/a. Honey bee colonies were placed near the field and data on dead adult bees, flight, field foraging, and colony conditions were collected prior to, during, and after the applications.

Applications of Orthene either in the late evening or early a.m. are highly toxic to honey bees. Most foragers killed by applications of Orthene do not live long enough to return to the hive. The addition of the sticker Bond to Orthene did not make the insecticide safer to honey bees.