February 21, 2025

Maine Board of Pesticide Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME, 04333-0028

Dear Julia Vacchiano,

I am writing on behalf of Jasper Wyman & Son (Wyman's) to express strong support for the renewal of the special local needs registration (24c) for the use of Express Herbicide (Express) (EPA REG No. 279-9594) for spot application and bunchberry control in lowbush blueberries (wild blueberries).

As the largest domestic brand of frozen fruit and a major wild blueberry producer, Wyman's understands the challenges facing wild blueberry growers. Effective management of bunchberry and other broadleaf weed species is critical. Weed species are in direct competition with wild blueberry plants for light, water, and nutrients causing a decline in yield in wild blueberry production. Heavy weed pressure also reduces harvester efficiency and has an impact on the overall fruit quality that is being processed and purchased by consumers.

The renewal of the 24c registration will ensure the ability for wild blueberry growers to rotate pesticides for weed management. Effective rotation of chemical herbicides to align with integrated pest and pollinator management (IPPM) principles is necessary for the long-term viability of the industry and to prevent the likelihood of resistance management in pest species. The ability to select specific chemical herbicide products is critical to allow growers the ability to manage the broad spectrum of weed species that can be found in wild blueberry fields. This in turn drives environmental and economic sustainability by reducing the total amount of chemical herbicides used since they can approach pest management at a species-specific level.

We strongly encourage the renewal of the special local needs registration (24c) for Express Herbicide in wild blueberries. The availability of effective pesticides is a critical component to ensure IPPM practices and drive long-term sustainability in the wild blueberry industry.

Sincerely,

Travis Dillard
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