



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

May 18, 2020

Notice to Fertilizing Material Licensees
Labeling of Products that Guarantee Endomycorrhizal Fungi

Dear Fertilizing Materials Licensee:

On February 17, 2020, the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) made official the following definition for Endomycorrhizal fungal propagules.

T-113 Endomycorrhizal fungal propagules are the structures of endomycorrhizal fungi that can generate another endomycorrhizal fungal individual. These structures include spores and root fragments colonized by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (CDFA-FMIP) is adopting this definition in determining acceptable labeling practices for fertilizing materials in California. Previously, the program allowed spores, colonized root fragments, as well as hyphae, to be counted as endomycorrhizal propagules. Consistent with AAPFCO, CDFA-FMIP no longer recognizes hyphae as endomycorrhizal propagules.

All new labels submitted to the program must follow the AAPFCO definition. Labels that have previously been approved with endomycorrhizal fungal propagule guarantees that include hyphae will be required to be revised to a guarantee that includes only spores and colonized root fragments. Additionally, a laboratory analysis and descriptions of lab methods used to verify new label guarantees will be required if a firm's analysis on file with CDFA is not limited to spores and colonized root fragments.

Firms will have one renewal cycle to submit revised labels and to clear the previously approved labels from the channels of trade.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (916) 900-5022.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY DALE WOODS

Dale M. Woods, Ph.D.
Environmental Program Manager

