Cuprous Oxide  CAS No. 1317-39-1

Why is it on the list?

Cuprous Oxide is classified as FSC Highly Hazardous due to its: **Acute toxicity to aquatic organisms**

All copper compounds are toxic to aquatic organisms which is a risk as Cuprous Oxide is highly soluble in water and therefore is easy to distribute in the environment.

Why do we still need to use it?

Cuprous oxide is used as a fertiliser to correct nutrient deficiencies and as fungicide to reduce the impacts of fungal attack.

Cuprous oxide provides a form of copper that is absorbed by the foliage as radiata pine is poor at accessing soil copper.

Cuprous Oxide is the most targeted pesticide for the control of fungus as it contains the least amount of elemental copper in formulation compared to alternative pesticides.

Its risk is relatively low as indicated by its approval for use in organic horticulture (Nordox 75 84% cuprous oxide)

The application of Cuprous Oxide serves a dual purpose on copper deficient sites where it serves both as fungus control and provides a source supplemental elemental copper.

Additional controls

Notices to adjacent neighbours.

Spray buffers along water courses and between adjacent neighbours are established using the USDA Forest Service validated model AGDISP on each forest.

Through the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, Cuprous Oxide is applied only where it is deemed absolutely necessary.

The search for an alternative

Tree breeding is the main area of research, to select trees that are genetically resistant to copper deficiency and fungal attack.

Forest managers already have available some select resistant trees available, however a significant period of time is required to develop these to a commercial quantity.

To comment please complete the [2015 FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide Derogation Stakeholder Survey](#)