

Maker of methyl iodide scraps controversial pesticide

The manufacturer of methyl iodide is pulling the controversial pesticide from California.

Late Tuesday, representatives of Tokyo-based Arysta LifeScience confirmed the "immediate suspension of product sales for all formulations of the fumigant MIDAS in the United States." The company said its decision was based on "an internal review of the fumigant and based on its economic viability in the U.S. marketplace," according to Amy Yoder, head of Arysta LifeScience North American business unit.

Paul Towers, a spokesman for Pesticide Action Network, said Arysta lawyers plan to ask today for a hearing on whether a lawsuit brought by environmental groups and aimed at overturning approval of the pesticide by state regulators should continue.

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