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customers to ask themselves if it is worth the extra effort to go to the farm to get their berries.

You should not be harvesting berries with white tips, because this indicates an immature berry. If in doubt, taste a few berries and decide if the berries taste as good as is possible. If you have a pick-your-own operation, you should also educate your customers about the advantages of harvesting fully-ripened berries. They may only be familiar with what they see in the market and thus harvest their berries with white tips. Educate your customers about the advantages of a fully ripened berry and chances are they will return to your farm again.

One disadvantage to harvesting your berries more mature is a decrease in shelf life. You will need to handle these mature berries carefully to prevent damage. You will

also need to keep the berries as cool as possible before they are sold. Start by harvesting as early in the morning as you can (but after any dew on the berries has dried). Keeping your strawberry fields weed- and disease-free should also help increase the shelf life of your fruit.

Apply fungicides, especially during wet weather, to reduce the development of gray mold. This disease is a major factor in postharvest berry rotting. Always follow the label directions regarding the PHI for your crop. Controlling gray mold during flowering can reduce the amount of this fungus in your fields during harvest. So plan carefully now for fruit quality at harvest.

New And Safer Insecticides

The current review of pesticides by the EPA has caused the loss of some materials we previously used for pest con-

trol in the field and may result in the loss of additional materials in the future.

However, there are several new insecticides introduced recently that should take the place of these lost materials and be safer to use as well. These newer, safer materials are often referred to as 'biorational' pesticides.

But what does this mean? Pesticides affect their target organism in different ways, depending upon the chemistry of the material. With many of the older pesticides, the way an insect was affected by a particular chemical was the same as it would affect a human. Thus these materials were considered fairly toxic.

However, some of the newer insecticides target specific biological systems in insects that are not present in humans. One example would be the molting system of an insect. By targeting systems that are not present in humans or other mammals, these new insecticides are considered safer and termed "biorational." This has helped speed up the registration process at the EPA.

Sometimes this selectivity can be even more specific,

such as for a certain group of insects. While this is beneficial to you, your workers and the environment in general, it also means that you will need to more carefully monitor your fields for insects.

In the past, many of the insecticides used eliminated a large group of pests that may have been found in your crop. However, the newer materials may selectively remove some of the pests but leave others unaffected. You will need to scout your fields to be sure that you have controlled the pest(s) that were present in your crop. So while you are gaining safer materials to use, you will need to monitor your fields more carefully.

Overall, these new chemicals will be beneficial since they will improve worker safety and reduce the ecological impacts from crop production. I also believe that they will improve crop production because growers will be observing their crops more closely and hopefully spotting any potential problems earlier. However, always remember that these materials are still pesticides and, therefore, be sure to read the label and follow the instructions for usage and safety instructions.

veloped usage guidelines for resistance management. Dr. Alan MacNab, vegetable disease specialist at Penn State, reports that there is no resistance to strobilurins in the U.S. but that there is already resistance outside North America.

Therefore, he reminds farmers to follow these guidelines. Resistance management strategies include alternating strobilurin materials with other effective materials and limiting the number of strobilurin applications per season.

Information on these guidelines will be included on all new labels, but some products do not have the new label information yet. The new guidelines are listed below. Be sure to follow these to help reduce the risk of vegetable diseases developing resistance to these new effective fungicides.

- Cucurbits. (1) No more than one application before alternation to an unrelated fungicide that is effective in controlling the causal fungus and (2) no more than four total applications per season.

- Potatoes. (1) No more than one application before alternation to an unrelated fungicide that is effective in controlling the causal fungus and (2) no more than six total applications per season.

- Tomatoes. (1) For late blight, no more than one application before alternation to an unrelated fungicide that is effective in controlling the late blight fungus; (2) for all other diseases, no more than three sequential applications before alternation to an unrelated fungicide that is effective in controlling the causal fungus; and (3) no more than five total applications per season.

NOTE: The sequential and totals reflect total strobilurin applications (at this time, both Quadris and Flint for vegetables). Therefore, if Flint is used for two applications on cucurbits, only two additional sprays can be made, regardless of whether they be Quadris or Flint. Likewise, if Quadris is used for two applications on cucurbits, only two additional sprays can be made, regardless of whether they are Flint or Quadris.

Fungicide Resistance Management

Just as for insecticides, there are some new fungicides available for use on vegetables and fruit.

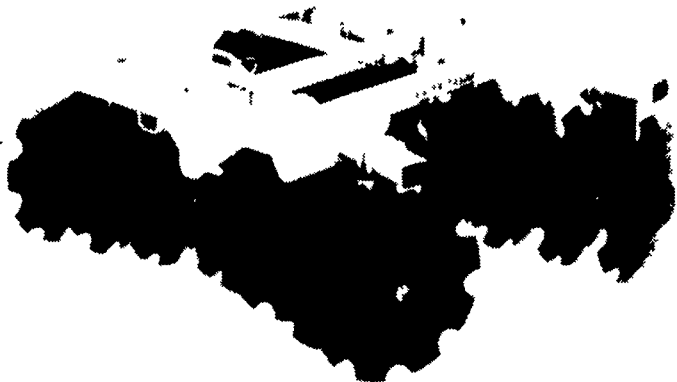
One group of new fungicides is the "strobilurins," which research and grower experience have shown to be very effective in controlling diseases. The strobilurin products now labeled on some vegetables include Quadris and Flint. Abound is a product labeled for various fruit and nut crops.

One reason that these materials are so effective is that they have some systemic activity, meaning that they actually move into plant tissues. However, a disadvantage of this type of activity is that diseases tend to develop resistance to these materials. A good example of this is Benlate resistance of diseases on fruits and vegetables.

Because of this potential problem, the companies that sell these products have de-



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Quarryville Growers' Market Expands

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — The Quarryville Growers' Market opened for business for the season here one week ago today.

The market, open every Saturday through October, is located at Good's Store at the corner of Rt. 222 and Rt. 372. The market features vegetables, fruit, cut flowers, baked goods, bedding plants, perennials, and nursery stock. The market accepts Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program checks.

The market, five years old, continues to expand, focusing

on its "we grow what we sell" philosophy. A new baker has been added to the market, and the market numbers 12 vendors.

"Being a growers' market means you are buying from the ones who grow it, locally, never shipped in, and always the highest quality we can provide," said Linda Boyer of Lambert Farm, Narvon. "Here you will find friendly service, locally grown products, and always fresh, fresh, fresh."

For information about the market or signing up as a vendor, call (717) 806-1997.