



For Immediate Release

**Contact: Jennifer Lombardi
Director of Communications
(916) 446-3316**

DROP IN PESTICIDE USE PROOF THAT IPM, USE REPORTING WORKING

[Sacramento, CA] The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) recently reported a 19 percent drop in 2001 pesticide use in California. More than a decade after DPR began requiring pesticide use reporting, the decrease demonstrates that education about proper, timely application of crop protection products and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are working within agriculture.

“The plant health industry throughout California continues to focus on proper use of plant protection products and worker safety,” says Steve Beckley, president/CEO, California Plant Health Association (CPHA). “While many who read this report will focus on overall numbers, the reality is that a combination of environmental stewardship, grower and industry education, and IPM work to the benefit of everyone, regardless of product use numbers. When products are applied appropriately, the environment, growers, and the public win.”

DPR’s report indicates a 30 million pound decrease in reported pesticide use in California. Agriculture is the only industry required by law to report pesticide sales and applications (use). More than two-thirds of all pesticides sold in California do not fall under the reporting requirements, including home use.

In 2001, a number of factors resulted in a decrease of overall pesticide applications in agriculture:

- Pest pressure was not as extreme as in previous years
- The increasing use of Integrated Pest Management, which includes using cover crops, beneficial insects and other tools to aid in controlling pests and weeds
- Sulfur use declined – sulfur is an organic compound often used on table grapes, wine grapes and organically-grown crops
- Methyl bromide is being phased out under the federal Clean Air Act, so many growers are converting to other methods to control pests, particularly on strawberries

CPHA has been active in several efforts to educate retailers, manufacturers, growers and farm workers about proper crop protection product use. One example is the release of *Proteccion de su*

Salud: Proteccion de Trabajadores Expuestos a Pesticidas, CPHA and the Coalition for Urban Renewal and Stewardship (CURES) in 1999. The novella provides information on how farm workers can protect themselves and their families from exposure to pesticides. The novella also includes information required for training purposes under the US Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard (WPS). USEPA has approved the novella as appropriate worker training material. More than 200,000 copies have been distributed, free of charge.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Lombardi or Steve Beckley at CPHA, (916) 446-3316.