



For Immediate Release

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Westbridge Announces California has Approved the Addition of Walnut Blight to the Blossom Protect™ Label

Vista, CA Westbridge Agricultural Products announced today that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has approved the use of Blossom Protect™ as a biofungicide in the prevention of walnut blight in walnuts. Blossom Protect™, initially EPA approved for use in the prevention of fire blight in pome fruit, has been commercially used by growers since 2012.

Registration in California gives walnut growers a new tool for the prevention of walnut blight, which is a plant disease caused by the bacterium *Xanthomonas arbuticola* pv. *juglandis*. Walnut Blight can be responsible for significant losses and can negatively impact nut quality. Blossom Protect's mode of action is competitive exclusion. It contains highly competitive microorganisms which out-compete the walnut blight pathogen for space and nutrients, in essence blocking the site of walnut blight infection.

In university trials, Blossom Protect™ has shown excellent control in preventing walnut blight, when used alone or as a tool with other products in a program of Integrated Pest Management. Because Blossom Protect acts as a competitive antagonist and does not directly affect the metabolism of the pathogen, there is no risk of developing resistance, even with frequent applications. Blossom Protect™ leaves no chemical residue, is safe for humans and animals, and is harmless to bees and beneficial insects.

Westbridge Agricultural Products is a leading manufacturer and distributor of effective biocontrol products, liquid organic fertilizers and specialty inputs. From its TRIGGRR® and Organic BioLink® to Earthtrend® Sustainables and SUNBurst® products, Westbridge provides a portfolio of high quality products that provide solutions to growers facing challenges in disease control, pest resistance and nutrient management.

For questions about Blossom Protect™ or the Westbridge product line, please call (800) 876-2767 or visit our website at www.westbridge.com.

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