

Feb. 17 2020

House Bill 4109

My name is Gary Vachter. I'm a third generation farmer from the St. Paul area. My wife and I have farmed for 38 years. We raise various grass seed varieties, speciality seeds, clover and filberts. We are opposed to House bill 4109.

We have had chlorpyrifos available to us our entire farming career. We have used chlorpyrifos on every crop we have grown, not necessarily every year on each crop, but on an as needed basis. When we decide to use chlorpyrifos it is because of the specific chemistry that controls insects that other insecticides don't control.

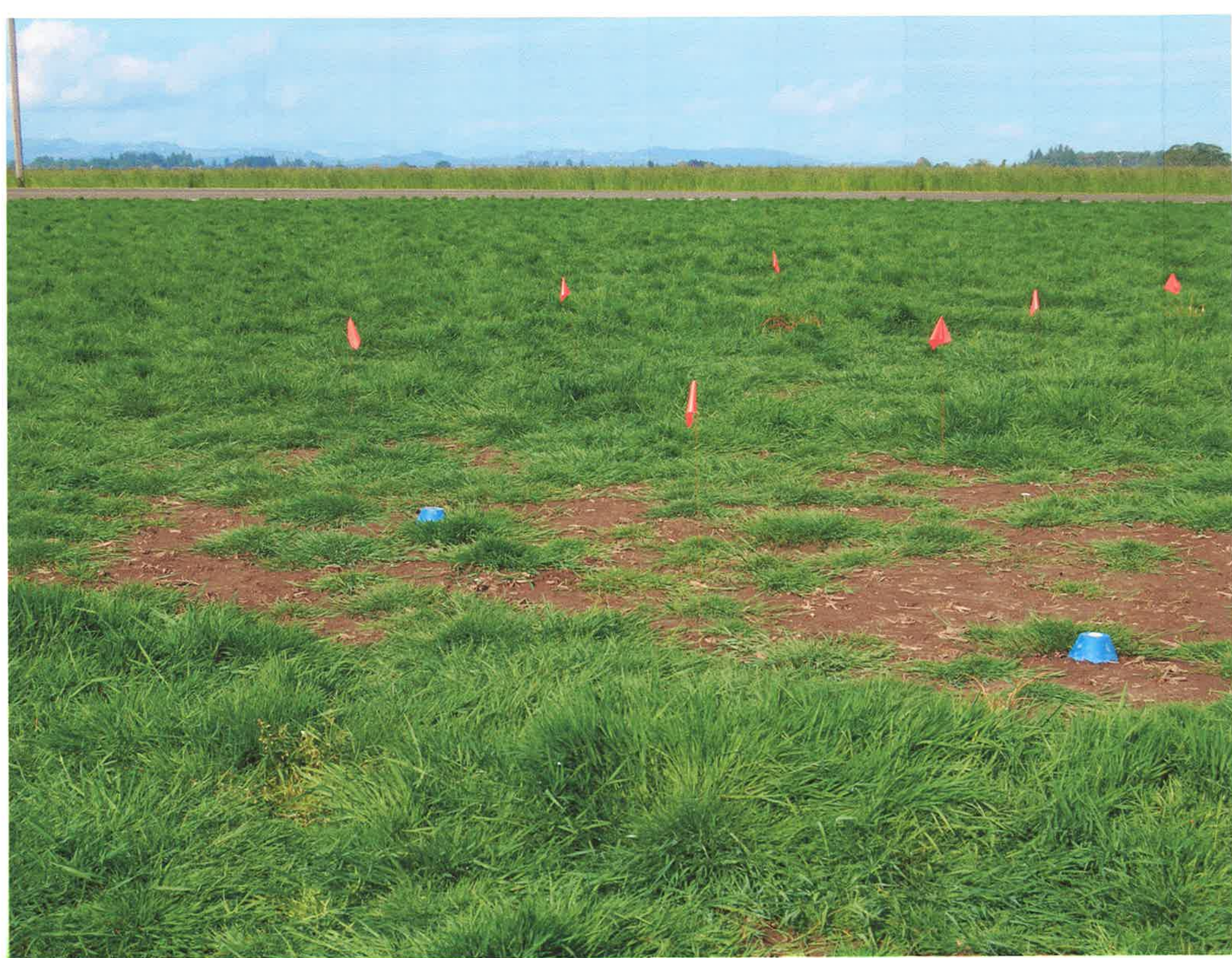
Chlorpyrifos is very good at controlling insects in the soil. These insects can destroy the root system of plants, which results in plants struggling to survive. Shallow root systems don't use nutrients or water efficiently, resulting in reduced seed production. Without exaggerating we have literally saved crops by applying chlorpyrifos.

The part of the bill which would require 8 days for reentry is counter productive of how the chemical needs to be activated. If chlorpyrifos is applied for insects in the soil, it needs to be incorporated, either by mechanical tillage, or by moisture. Irrigation might be required if supplemental moisture is needed. When tillage is used, the applicator and tractor driver are protected with cabs that use charcoal filtered air systems.

It would be an irresponsible choice to ban Lorsban. We currently don't have an alternate product with the same chemistry. Losing this product would be devastating for our Ag industry

Please think this through very carefully and think of the consequences of this aggressive bill.


Gary Vachter



Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend

 Feature 1



Google Earth

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1000 ft

Gary and Heidi Vachter

From: jon@raincreeknursery.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:07 PM
To: gvachter@stpaultel.com
Subject: symphytan damage picture

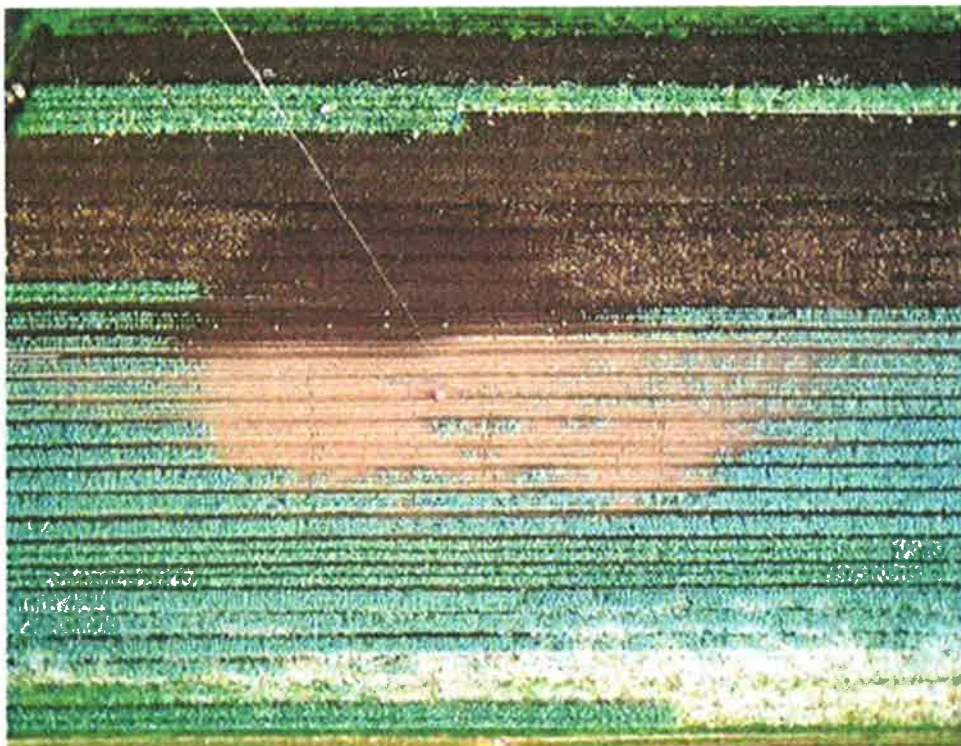
Hello Gary,

I got a call from Gail Gingerich that you were looking for an image of garden symphytan damage. I've attached a few for your use if you need them (grass, broccoli and squash). Not sure if they are exactly what you are looking-for but it's what I had easily accessible here today.

Best wishes, Jon

grass field





Broccoli



Squash

le

ger