

## **AGRI-50**

### **RESULTS OF NATIONWIDE FIELD TESTING**

**RICHARD M. STECKLER**

AGRI-50, a new non-toxic, biodegradable pesticide, has been under review by agricultural universities, the USDA and growers for the past year. The testing is focused on product efficacy against numerous exoskeleton pests, particularly nematodes of all kinds.

The product is a colloid solution that uses the natural movement of colloids to penetrate exoskeletal pests. The colloids attempt to escape from the body of the exoskeletons and, in doing so, literally cause an explosion, thereby killing the pest. Since it is not a chemical reaction, but a physical reaction, no poisonous residue is found.

The following crops have been tested, or are being tested: grapes, strawberries, ornamentals, tomatoes, carrots, papayas, coffee, pineapples, corn, sugarcane, rice, soybeans, citrus, white wheat, cotton, sugar beets and turfgrass.

The tests started at lab essays, then greenhouses, micro-plots and into the fields. The preliminary reports have shown the ability of AGRI-50 to control and reduce the population of insects including nematodes, white flies, mites, mole crickets, aphids, scale phylloxera, red fire ants and thrips.

The product is applied on crops with foliage pests by using commonly available spraying equipment and on crops with soil pests by either drenching or drip irrigation.

AGRI-50 has been found to be successful in killing fungi on stored lemons, and is being tested against bacteria rot in Florida citrus.

From all indications, AGRI-50 may be a partial solution to the replacement of Methyl Bromide applications. It may also be applicable for use on crops that previously could not afford Methyl Bromide for nematode control.