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CCA: A viable alternative to tradition



Creosote is often used to treat vineyard poles.

Treaters who are looking at mitigating risk in the light of increasing creosote shortages, should consider switching to CCA.

This observation from Dolphin Bay follows reports from some customers that the supply of creosote was cut in half this month and will be slashed by half again in September. In its August newsletter, SAWPA reported that, following an urgent meeting on August 5 attended by creosote suppliers and users, it became apparent that "the situation is not going to improve but rather worsen," following a consistent shortage of creosote availability for some years.

"There is a looming possibility that shortages may become a serious crisis if alternative and additional sources of coal tar raw material for the production of creosote are not found soon," the newsletter said.

The shortages are caused by factors including the current depression of the global economy, a drop in the production of ferrous metal and steel, and difficulties in maintaining the plant chains that supply the raw material.

There seems to be "some hope" of other sources being found, the SAWPA newsletter reported. Nevertheless, says Bertus, treaters using creosote should not string their customers along for too long, or they might get disillusioned and switch to alternatives to wood.

"It would be far better to switch to CCA and keep your customers within in the wood industry," he says.

Switching from creosote to CCA is a simple and inexpensive process of replacing piping, valves and pumps, and possibly the tank, depending on its condition. The cost of the conversion can be recovered in about five months. EIA regulations allow treaters to switch from one material to another, if the quantities of hazardous material on the site are not increased.

"If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us."

Source: [Dolphin Bay Chemicals](#)