

CONVERSION OF TRIACETIC ACID LACTONE TO POTASSIUM SORBATE

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The Invention

UW-Madison researchers have developed a new approach for producing the preservative potassium sorbate directly from the biomassderived chemical intermediate triacetic lactone (TAL) rather than via sorbic acid as an intermediate. This reaction proceeds from TAL via simultaneous ring-opening and hydrolysis. The ring-opening step is base-catalyzed rather than acid-catalyzed as in earlier technologies, which enables simultaneous neutralization of the salt. The researchers have been able to obtain yields of up to 72% thus far. The potassium sorbate can then be purified using THF extraction. Potassium sorbate made via this method has been verified to be effective against bacteria/yeast and can be used as a preservative in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

Additional Information

For More Information About the Inventors

George Huber

Tech Fields

<u>Clean Technology : Biobased & renewable chemicals & fuels</u>

For current licensing status, please contact Jennifer Gottwald at jennifer@warf.org or 608-960-9854

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