

**PEP-TALK**  
**OSU Extension Pesticide Education Program**  
**Vol 2 Issue 11 August 1997**

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~pested/>

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**OHIO SECTION 18 FOR PUMPKINS**

Ohio recently received approval for the use of Nova 40W (miclobutanil) on pumpkins for control of powdery mildew. The exemption period is August 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997. Applications may be made up to the day of harvest. The restricted entry interval is 48 hours. (Tom Harrison, ODA, Fax, August 8, 1997)

**ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST**

A list of the Federal Endangered and Threatened Species is now available in the Columbus PAT office. A few supporting articles are also available. For more information concerning Endangered Species, you may want to browse the following web sites:

<http://www.fws.gov/~r9endspp/endspp.html> - The US Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species homepage. (Great slide show feature)

<http://www.consecol.org/Journal/> - Conservation Ecology is a scientific journal devoted to research regarding the conservation of ecosystems, landscapes, species, populations, and genetic diversity; the restoration of ecosystems and habitats; and the management of resources.

<http://www.fws.gov/~r9extaff/pubaff.html> - News from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This includes press releases and speeches. (Margaret Jones, USEPA, memo, July 25, 1997)

**DEKALB ANNOUNCES ROUNDUP READY CORN**

Officials of DeKalb Genetics Corp. announced July 29 that they will be marketing Roundup Ready ® corn to growers for the 1998 growing season pending final governmental approvals that are anticipated by the end of the year. (Pesticide Report, v1n3, August 4, 1997)

## **AG COMMUNITY RESISTS IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANT PESTICIDE RULE**

A new plant pesticide rule involving "EPA's plans to regulate all pest-resistant plants and create broad categories of exemptions under FIFRA and the FFDCA" ( P & T News, July 30, 1997) is a topic of discussion in the agricultural community recently. Earlier this month, a senior EPA official urged companies to accept the EPA's proposed plant pesticide rule so that the agency could continue with implementation. Industry has been vocalizing objections that the rule will be too costly and will hinder development of alternatives to chemical pesticides.

Industry representatives and scientists said that the uncertainties about the proposed rule and the estimated costs of between \$60,000 and \$1 million to register a plant pesticide will not only stifle creativity, but will not allow companies, other than the very large ones, to compete in the alternative pesticides market. One of the biggest concerns is that the price will make most companies discontinue efforts to develop genetic alternatives to chemical pesticides.

One of the most worrisome points is the definition of a plant pesticide because "the street image is that plants contain pesticides and, thus, are unsafe. EPA's approach to defining a plant pesticide will have a significant impact on researchers and plant breeders." ( P & T News, July 30, 1997)

Some of the associated problems with this regulation includes the burden of putting informational material on bags of seeds that have been genetically modified for pest resistance; the concern about how to handle vegetable seeds as pesticides; the concern about whether "classifying seeds as pesticides will affect imports and exports throughout the seed production process;" ( P & T News, July 30, 1997) and the high costs and low returns that smaller agricultural industries will receive in order to use biotechnology advances. ( P & T News, July 30, 1997)

## **NEW AIR STANDARD WILL NOT AFFECT FARMERS...**

At least that is what EPA Administrator Carol Browner told the Agricultural Senate Committee on July 22, 1997 regarding EPA's enforcement of new air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter. Carol Browner continued by saying that "We will not restrict tilling. We will not regulate ammonia emissions from animal wastes. And there isn't going to be any wholesale action against agricultural burning on private lands." ( P & T News, July 30, 1997)

However, Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) raised a concern about tractor emissions and pesticide and fertilizer applications being targeted by the new standards. Chairman Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) desired assurance from Browner that no mandatory controls on agriculture would be implemented in the future, to which Browner stated that the agency could document that "Farms are one of the smallest sources of fine particulates in the air." ( P & T News, July 30, 1997)

Browner also pointed out that implementation of the standard is years away because the EPA must first "develop and install a national air monitoring network - a three year project in itself - then accumulate data for another three years before designating nonattainment areas (and then) states will have another three years to develop control programs." ( P & T News, July 30, 1997)

## **DEBUGGING OUR SCHOOLS**

Current public health and environmental issues focus on the effects of indoor pollutants such as radon, chemical emissions from new carpeting, cigarette smoke, asbestos, and especially pesticides on human health. Concern for children's safety is at an all-time high. Environmental pollution and child safety concerns motivate parents to hold school administrators accountable for all uses of pesticides in schools and for the overall, in-school safety of their children.

Parents' expectations relative to pests and pesticides drive the efforts of elected officials, school administrators, and

the pest control industry to institute IPM in schools. They expect school administrators to make responsible IPM decisions - those that include pesticide use, as well as those that do not.

The following information is from a Purdue survey of parents of children attending an Indiana elementary school. The school selected was typical of many of Indiana's 1905 public schools in enrollment and building age. The elementary school administration provided names and addresses of 390 families, and each was mailed a survey questionnaire, cover letter, and return envelope.

**Pests.** Parents overwhelmingly agreed that maintaining a pest free school was important. More than half of the parents perceived that the elementary school had pest problems, although most believed the problems were slight. Forty-one percent of the parents reported that their children complained about roaches and wasps found in classrooms and lunchrooms and on playgrounds.

**Pesticides.** Parents were concerned about health risks associated with the use of pesticides in their children's school. Nearly forty percent believed their children were exposed to pesticides while on school property, although the level of student exposure was considered low.

The use of pesticides indoors was of greater concern than outdoor use, and parents were more concerned about exposure by inhalation than by skin contact. The acceptance of pesticide use in the school was pest specific: the more serious they perceived the pest, the more receptive they were to chemical use. The parents agreed that pesticides should be used only as a last resort and that, when pesticides are used, only certified pest control operators should apply them.

**Pest control.** Parents believed that pest sightings should be documented, and they expected records to be kept of all pesticide applications made at the school. Parents thought school administrators should notify them of impending applications and oversee the posting of pesticide warning signs following applications - both indoors and out. Parents expected information, documentation, and communication on all pesticide decisions made by school officials, and they insisted that the school's pest management policies be available to the public.

Those implementing pest management programs in Indiana public schools must remember that success will hinge on fulfilling the expectation of parents that a pest-free environment be provided for their children. The results of this study were quite clear: Regardless of the sociodemographic considerations - gender, age, education, income - parents expect a pest-free environment and reduced pesticide use in schools. (Debugging Our Schools: Can We Meet Parental Expectations?, Tim Gibb, Purdue University)

#### **"AIR TIME" FOR METHYL BROMIDE**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced findings that methyl bromide remains in the atmosphere for LESS time than scientists previously thought. This conclusion stems from the finding that oceans remove more methyl bromide from the air than was believed.

NOAA researchers found that the atmospheric lifetime of methyl bromide (how long the chemical stays in the atmosphere before it breaks down or is removed) is about 8.5 months. Up until now, it was believed that methyl bromide's atmospheric lifetime was more than 24.0 months. The shorter atmospheric lifetime was calculated after researchers discovered that the ocean absorbs methyl bromide from the atmosphere at a rate faster than previously thought.

Methyl bromide can be removed from the atmosphere by two major, natural processes. It is chemically converted in the atmosphere through oxidation, and it is absorbed by the ocean. The loss of atmospheric methyl bromide to the ocean is just about as fast as oxidation in the atmosphere.

The U.S. is the world's biggest user of methyl bromide. Plans are to phase out the chemical here in the year 2001.

By contrast, the European Union, the second biggest user, only plans to cut consumption by 25 percent by 1998 and phase it out by 2015. The third largest user, Japan, has no plans at all to reduce or phase out methyl bromide. (Chemical Regulation Reporter; June 20 and 30, 1997. MBAO Press Release; June 1997)

## NEWS NOTES

### Mexico pesticide actions

Mexico has agreed to gradually phase out DDT and chlordane use over the next 10 years. The agreement was reached at a meeting of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, established by NAFTA to ensure Mexico would not gain a trade advantage by ignoring environmental concerns. (Chemically Speaking, July 1997)

### Government Statistics

The federal government unveiled a site on the World Wide Web that links Internet users to statistics gathered by 70 agencies on topics ranging from agriculture to transportation. The FedStats site (<http://www.fedstats.gov/>) gives high schoolers better access to federal statistics than top officials in Washington had five years ago. (Chemically Speaking, July 1997)

## CHEMICAL & LABEL UPDATE

The following information provides registration status of particular pesticides and should not be considered as pesticide recommendations by OSU Extension.

### FIELD CROPS

**Herbicide Safener HOE-107892** (mefenpyr-diethyl)--A time-limited tolerance for this inert ingredient, and its 2,4-dichlorophenyl-pyrazoline metabolites HOE-094270 and HOE-113225 in or on wheat grain and wheat straw has been established. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 authorizing use of the herbicide safener on wheat grain and wheat straw in North Dakota and Montana. The tolerances will expire and are revoked on August 1, 1998. (Federal Register, August 8, 1997)

### FUNGICIDE

**Copper Octanoate**--W. Neudorff GmbH KG-- An exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for the fungicide copper octanoate has been established when used as an active ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops. (Federal Register, August 1, 1997)

### VEGETABLES

**Fludioxonil**--A time-limited tolerance for residues of fludioxonil in or on potatoes has been established. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 authorizing use of the pesticide on potatoes for silver scurf in North Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, and Minnesota. (Federal Register, August 1, 1997)

**Glyphosate**--A time-limited tolerance for residues of glyphosate in or on dry peas, pea vines, hay, and silage, lentils, and kidney (cattle, goats, horses and sheep) has been established. This action is in response to EPA's granting of emergency exemptions in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The tolerance will expire and is revoked on August 30, 1998. (Federal Register, August 11, 1997)

**Myclobutanil**--The EPA has established time-limited tolerances for combined residues of myclobutanil in or on tomatoes as a result of an emergency exemption in California to use myclobutanil on tomatoes to control powdery mildew. The tolerance will expire on July 28, 1998. (Federal Register, August 8, 1997)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Daza 4.5 WDG** (dihydroazadirachtin)-- Thermo Trilogy, Inc.--EPA has approved applications to register this product for indoor and outdoor use in ornamentals, turf, agronomic and horticultural crops . Originally, AgriDyne Technologies, Inc., had submitted applications to register the products and they were later transferred to Thermo Trilogy, Inc. (Federal Register, August 8, 1997)

## NEW METHOD TO BE USED TO DECREASE LYME DISEASE

For unsuspecting deer it will look like a free lunch. But when they stick their heads into the specially designed feeding station to eat the ground-up corn, they will brush against paint rollers coated with pesticide. The pesticide will kill the ticks that the deer carry. And, as the ticks diminish in the woodlands of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, so will the risk of Lyme disease for people.

That is the theory behind a \$2 million federally sponsored experiment announced in July in Connecticut. The boxlike feeding stations -- with the rollers positioned vertically -- will be set up in five states from Connecticut to Maryland in the fall and winter. Will ticks be affected by the poison once it has been rubbed into the deer fur, where ticks live and breed? Ticks have a two-year life cycle, so scientists will have to wait until 1999 or 2000 to see whether the tick population has thinned out -- and, if it has, whether the pesticide was the cause.

Dr. Durland Fish, the project's coordinator and a research scientist at the Yale School of Medicine, said that this is the first time scientists have tried to attack Lyme disease in this way. But he said that the federal Department of Agriculture had mounted a similar assault on tick-borne illnesses among cattle in Texas, with remarkable results: The tick population there had dropped 90 percent to 95 percent, he said. (By James Barron via John Ward, USEPA, E-mail, July 29, 1997)

## NOBEL LAUREATE BLASTS "EXTREMIST ENVIRONMENTALISTS"

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Norman Borlaug, Nobel laureate and early leader of the "Green Revolution" in the underdeveloped world, says opposition to chemical fertilizers from "extremist environmentalists" threatens prospects for growing more food in Africa and poor regions. "Realistic soil fertility restoration and maintenance... in Africa will be the key to achieving needed agricultural growth rates," the renowned U.S. plant scientist told a U.S. Senate committee last week.

But the debate with environmentalists "has confused --if not paralyzed -- policy-makers," he added. "Afraid of antagonizing powerful lobbying groups, many international agencies have turned away from supporting the science-based agricultural intensification programs so urgently needed" in countries south of Africa's Sahara Desert.

The result, he said, has been "declining food security" and greater rather than less, damage to the environment as forests and slopes get turned into marginal cropland to feed swelling populations. The annual growth rate in food productivity of 5 percent or 6 percent that many economists feel necessary to significantly reduce poverty in Africa will require using the best technology available, Borlaug told the Senate Agriculture Committee.

After learning from devastating famines of 1959-60 that manure and other organic fertilizers were not enough to support needed increases, China turned successfully to chemical fertilizer, Borlaug said. "This lesson must not be lost on Africa. ... We cannot turn back the clock," he said, criticizing "extremist environmentalists" who oppose even sparing use of fertilizers.

During the 1960s, through traditional plant breeding the " Revolution" produced higher-yielding varieties of grains that helped feed a fast-growing world. Borlaug's work in that effort won him the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize and world acclaim. Now 83, the Iowa-born scientist is working on African crop projects in association with Japan's Sasakawa Foundation and former President Carter, a fellow advocate harnessing technology against famine.

Borlaug criticized many modern research managers and scientists as "detached from the realities in farmers' fields, preferring to measure their achievements by the genetic and information products they generate ... (and) the learned papers they publish," instead of their impact on crops.

Government and private cooperation will be needed, Borlaug said, to make affordable for small planters in Africa the new crop breeding advances of biotechnology already used in more prosperous regions.

(Sheila Abraham, USEPA, E-mail, August 5, 1997)

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension.