

PEP-Talk, March, 2005

Pesticide Education Program
Ohio State University Extension
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April 7 is Landscape and Household Pest Inservice

Register today for the Landscape and Household Pest Inservice on April 7. The registration form is available on the Pesticide Education Program website at <http://pested.osu.edu> Follow the link for "Agent Information." The deadline for registering is March 29.

The inservice is for Extension educators, program assistants and lead master gardeners. The focus will be on common questions and issues that consumers ask in regards to household and landscape pests. For more information, check out the website or call the Pesticide Education Program at (614) 292-4070.

Parkinsons' Studies

Parkinson's Disease is the focus of studies at the University of Rochester seeking possible environmental risks for the progressive neurological disorder. The fungicide Maneb along with the lubricant

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls), have been identified as disruptors of the type of nerve cell that degenerates in the course of Parkinson's. The study on PCBs was published in the December issue of *NeuroToxicology* and the Maneb study will be published in February's issue. Other pesticides are also being studied along with dioxins and heavy metals. The pesticide studies will focus on how combinations of pesticides may damage the nervous system. (*Source: Democrat & Chronicle, Jan. 27, 2005*)

The University of Buffalo is also researching Parkinson's Disease and possible environment risks. The researchers looked at rotenone, a naturally occurring compound derived from roots, seeds and tropical plant leaves that is registered with the U.S. EPA as a pesticide. This botanical pesticide is used as a selective, non-specific insecticide used in home gardens for insect control and for lice and tick control on pets.

The study looked at dopamine, the neurotransmitter that controls body movement. Using rat neurons, the researchers showed that rotenone could disrupt the transport of dopamine to the brain's movement center. (*Sources: University of Buffalo via The Label, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cooperative Extension, Vol. 17, No. 1; Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*)

U.S. Joins Other Countries in Global Harmonization

The U.S. EPA has expressed a commitment with other countries to pursue global harmonization for pesticide registrations. This initiative would create a worldwide, standardized format for submitting new and existing product registration data to regulators. The governmental agencies of participating countries would exchange reviews of the data and utilize set protocols for conducting risk assessments and regulatory decisions. The goal is to have the new system implemented by 2014. Pesticide applicators would see a new label layout, wording and signal words as a result of the globalization process. (*Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 33, No. 16*)

EPA Assesses Cost of the Worker Protection Standard

The EPA Office of Pesticide Programs has initiated an assessment of the time and cost nationwide for compliance with the Worker Protection Standard, including information collections, information exchange and training paperwork.

Estimations are that 2,293,364 hours have been spent at a cost of \$109,436,947. This is the total time, effort or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a federal agency. So, this is the time spent by growers to adhere to the regulation. *(Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update)*

Monsanto Purchases Fruit and Vegetable Seed Company

Monsanto has agreed to pay about \$1 billion to acquire Seminis, the world's largest producer of fruit and vegetable seeds. Monsanto spokespeople said the company would develop new vegetable varieties using convention breeding and that the fruit and vegetable seed business could grow without biotechnology. This move will make Monsanto the largest supplier of vegetable seeds and be the largest seed and biotech company in the world. *(Source: Chemically Speaking, University of Florida Extension, February 2005)*

Georgia Cattlement Plead Guilty to Bird Kill

Two cattlemen pled guilty to killing approximately 3,300 migratory birds on their Georgia farm. In January of last year, the pair spread corn laced with Warbex around a pond on the farm to kill nuisance birds. Warbex is a topical preparation for cattle to control insect pests and its active ingredient, famphur, is highly toxic if ingested. *(Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update)*

EPA Annual Report Available

EPA Office of Pesticide Programs has their annual report available online

at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/annual/2004/04annualrpt.pdf> The report is entitled "Taking Care of Business: Protecting Human Health and the Environment" and highlights the accomplishments and key

achievements in 2004. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update*)

EPA Launches New Spanish Language Site

EPA's Spanish language materials have been compiled to one central website. The address of the new site is <http://www.epa.gov/espanol> The site will feature Spanish language materials on a wide variety of areas from proper management of pesticides to lead poisoning prevention and controlling asthma triggers. There is also Spanish language learning tools on the environment available for students and teachers. (*Source: EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Update*)

Beyond the Drift

Green cleaning is the focus of an executive order by the governor of New York to require state facilities to use cleaning products that contain no components that are harmful to humans or the environment. The governor is also planning to propose legislation to require public schools to ban similar cleaning products. Opponents of the move point out that the efficacy of the approved cleaning products that meet the governor's criteria are not the best products for controlling mold and some pathogens in facilities such as public schools. (*Source: Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 33, No. 13*)

Pesticide Crop Watch

Insecticides

Lindane - AGSCO has asked EPA to delete uses of lindane on broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and radish.

Herbicides

Roundup Ready alfalfa - The regulatory approval process has begun for Roundup Ready alfalfa. The University of California has released a paper that looks at the potential issues and impacts of this technology on production system and markets. The paper also looks at weed species shifts, weed resistance, possible gene outflow

to feral alfalfa, stand removal and market acceptance. The paper is available at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8153.pdf>

Misc.

Monsanto plans to introduce **triple-stacked corn** which combines Yieldgard Plus with Roundup Ready 2 to control both Western and Northern rootworm larvae and the European corn borer. In November, Monsanto received Japanese approval for product to be sold in their country.

(Sources for Pesticide Crop Watch: USDA/CSREES/PAS Update, Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News, Vol. 33, Nos. 12, 13)

Upcoming Events

Landscape and Household Pest Inservice

April 7, 2005
Agriculture Administration Auditorium
OSU Campus, Columbus

Commercial New Applicator Schools

April 6, 2005
Categories: Core, Turf
Taught at Longview Center, Mansfield, Ohio
Contact: OSU Extension, Crawford County, (419) 562-8731

April 26, 2005
Categories: Core, Turf
Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

April 27, 2005
Categories: Core, Industrial Vegetation
Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

July 13, 2005

Categories: Core, Turf

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

October 11, 2005

Categories: Core, Turf

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

October 12, 2005

Categories: Core, Ornamentals, Industrial Vegetation

Taught at ODA in Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Contact: Pesticide Education Program, OSU Extension, (614) 292-4070

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