Surflan’s popularity spurs plant expansion

INDIANAPOLIS — DowElanco has announced a production plant expansion to meet increased demand for oryzalin, the active ingredient in Surflan pre-emergent herbicide. Oryzalin’s world-wide sales have increased 15 percent over the last year and customer demand continues to strengthen, according to John Peterson, product manager for Surflan.

“Industry professionals are seeking versatile products that are highly efficacious and versatile enough to be used on a variety of sites,” said Peterson, who attributed Surflan’s growing appeal to the need to reduce weeds as part of integrated pest management programs. “They need to strike a balance between satisfying their customers and keeping operating expenses in mind. That means implementing a pest management program that advocates a judicious use of weed-control products.”

Surflan has been used in the turf and ornamental industry for more than 15 years. It’s designed to prevent growth of more than 50 grassy and broadleaf weeds on a variety of turfgrasses and ornamentals. For more information, contact DowElanco at 800-352-6776.

New offices for growing York Bridge

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Due to increased business and growth, York Bridge Concepts has expanded by opening a new and larger office strategically located here.

The new office handles all sales and marketing efforts intended to service the golf course industry throughout the northern half of the U.S., including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin, all of which ranked in the top five states for golf course construction, according to NGF’s latest report.

York Bridge Concepts originally opened the regional office in February 1994, in order to better meet the needs of clients, but quickly outgrew its environs. “We needed to hire a salesperson and a receptionist to handle the number of calls that were coming into the office,” said Joseph York, vice president of York. “By adding more space and more phone lines, we are able to offer the level of service our customers expect.”

York works in the office and directs activities in the Northeast region. Mark Neal is the sales manager for the Northwest area.

Revenues for the company, which is headquartered in Tampa, Fla., reached $2.8 million in 1994. “We are on pace to double that figure for this year,” said York.

Currently, three full-time employees staff the new office. For more information, call 800-383-0555.

EPA planning review of label procedures

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“These changes will allow us to focus our efforts on high-priority risks to public health, while making it easier for industry to make minor changes in pesticide registrations.”

In the case of label changes, registrants will still be required to provide EPA with a copy of the product label including the latest alterations. EPA will review amended label changes and assist registrants to ensure that pesticide registration amendments under the new process comply with the agency’s health and safety guidelines.

This is the first step in fulfilling the self-certification measure in President Bill Clinton’s report on reinventing environmental regulations issued March 16, according to Kasper. It is expected to lead to similar streamlining efforts in other EPA programs.

Ciba Manager of Public Affairs Steve Powell said EPA staff and scientists have also shown a greater willingness to work with chemical manufacturers to make certain they are doing the proper tests and following the correct procedures to get more complicated, new products registered.

“A field study can take 18 months to finish. And if it’s not done right you have to do it all over again,” Powell said.

“We’ve worked closely with EPA the past few years to make sure our science is solid before we begin our research. It’s working. Not so long ago, it wasn’t unusual to take five to seven years to get a new product approved. We recently received approval for an agricultural herbicide in just 14 months.”

Seed violations

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The state alleged that Pickseed used another company’s proprietary names on Pickseed varieties submitted in response to a bid from a Midwestern buyer in 1985.

Dennis Issacson, a state commodity inspections manager, said a $5,000 civil penalty also has been imposed against E. J. Lafayette Jr., a seed grower in Dallas, for mislabeling a seed variety. Issacson said there was no evidence that Lafayette’s conduct was intentional.

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