Valent’s Pinpoint okayed for mole crickets; Primo label expanded

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Superintendents in South Carolina have a new weapon against mole crickets following a label addition for Pinpoint 15 Granular insecticide. A 24(c) label was recently approved for the product. The label addition permits application on residential lawns, athletic fields, parks and commercial landscapes. According to Joe Chamberlin, field market development specialist for Valent U.S.A Corp., the granular formulation of Pinpoint makes it more user-friendly in public areas, such as golf courses.

“While there are good liquid alternatives on the market, such as Orthene Turf, Tree and Ornamental, some areas are difficult to reach with spray equipment,” Chamberlin said. “Pinpoint will allow superintendents to spot-treat these hard-to-reach areas.” Chamberlin said the product will also be useful under wet conditions when heavy spray equipment may damage turf. Research has demonstrated that a broadcast application of Pinpoint effectively controls both the nymphs and adult mole crickets. “That means Pinpoint can be used year-round, an important consideration for South Carolina golf course superintendents,” he explained.

DES PLAINES, Ill. — Barricade preemergence herbicide from Sandoz Agro Inc., has been registered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Barricade is designed to deliver preemergence performance in controlling crabgrass, goosegrass, poa annua and 27 other problem grasses and broadleaf weeds on fairways, tees and roughs. Using up to 75 percent less active ingredient than other preemergence herbicides, Barricade offers up to 26 weeks residual control following a single application. Its flexibility allows for fall, spring, or split applications. Barricade is available in cases of six, 1-pound bags of water soluble packets or 24, one-pound boxes.

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Ciba Turf and Ornamental Products has announced the Environmental Protection Agency approval of a new, expanded label for Primo, plant growth management tool. The expanded label now permits the use of Primo or its equivalent in Poa annua conversion and maintenance overseeding.

Deere network

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senior data-base analyst at John Deere & Co. “What we find is that the data-base expertise varies widely from one factory to another, or even from one department to another.”

The technology support experts at Deere headquarters often found themselves fielding emergency phone calls from local data-base analysts after a network process has failed. Higgins said the company has turned to a product called Patrol in an effort to better manage its computer systems throughout its worldwide locations.

Patrol, released by Houston-based BMC Software, is a network management application that automates and centralizes the control of critical elements. By using Patrol, staff members at headquarters can monitor computer systems in the field, and in some cases prevent network problems before they start.

“[Before] we were always catching up... we didn’t know about things until some process had failed,” said Higgins. “We wanted a product that would take us ahead of the curve, and allow us to be proactive. Our data bases around the world will be monitored on a seven by 24 basis. We will be like a global watchdog.”

Higgins explained a member of the computer systems support staff is being trained to be the “Patrol” expert. In the meantime, Deere & Co. has created a Computer Center here that monitors the company’s data bases around the world.

“We can look [at the data] and turn it into knowledge — into information that we can actually use,” said Higgins.

Kim Acker Lipp is associate editor at Service News, a sister paper of Golf Course News, and the nation’s foremost business journal covering the computer service and support industry.