Dursban Alert Sounded

Dow AgroSciences has sounded a rallying cry for superintendents using Dursban to make themselves heard in Washington.

Dursban’s active ingredient, chlorpyrifos, is one of the organophosphate pesticides being scrutinized by the EPA as part of ongoing implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act. EPA recently competed a risk assessment of chlorpyrifos and began a 60-day public comment period on Oct. 1. Dow is urging superintendents to write to EPA to let them know that continued use of Dursban is important to them.

According to Dow’s Tim Maniscalo, Dursban is a “primary tool” for golf courses that may be lost to new regulations unless users act now. Superintendents “are an important group that need to be considered when any decisions are made on this compound,” he said. “They need to make certain that their voices are heard.”

Maniscalo believes superintendents can make a difference in the decision-making process. “People in Washington will take notice when voters let their voices be heard,” he said.

He suggested that superintendents contact their Dow Agro representatives to learn more about the issue and how to respond. A Web site with key information is also planned.

Under the FQPA process, the risks and benefits of dozens of turf chemicals are being reviewed under a controversial set of standards developed by EPA in response to a federal law that was originally widely supported by industry and environmentalists alike.

Dursban is among the first widely used golf course products to reach this stage of the review. Despite the need for superintendents to comment immediately, Maniscalo noted that it will likely still be several years before a final ruling is made.

Humdinger of a Price

If you’ve got money to burn and really want to make an impression on the golfers at your course, have we got something for you. Introducing the Humdinger golf car, an electric vehicle manufactured in the mold of the muscular Hummer sport-utility vehicle. The Humdinger, retailing for a mere $15,600, is perfect for cruising the golf course or for light off-road excursions. Check out these features:

- 38 horsepower electric motor;
- 22-inch knobby tires;
- street-legal configuration;
- top speed of 30 miles per hour.

The Humdinger is sold at In Celebration of Golf, a 12,000-square-foot golf retail store located in Scottsdale, Ariz.

“It’s perfect for someone who wants to make a statement,” says Peter Meyer of In Celebration of Golf.

A statement?

Yeah, like, “I’m rich, I’m bored and my golf game sucks, so I bought this yellow toy to impress my buddies.”