New formulations of old chemicals and new chemicals—such as Dibrom and Difolatan—are coming to the fore to fill arborists’ as-yet-unsatisfied needs, he said.

Through a mutual liaison between the arborist, the state or federal specialist and the agrichem specialist, new chemicals in arboriculture are on the horizon, Thomas concluded.

Don’t Underestimate Bee Stings, Warns Brandt

Bee stings can prove fatal to hypersensitive golfers, cautions James W. Brandt, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and superintendent of the Danville (Ill.) Country Club.

Although most insect stings cause no more than slight discomfort, in rare cases of hypersensitivity one bee sting can cause death, says Brandt. Many bee-sting fatalities could have been prevented, he laments, if the victims had known of their susceptibility prior to the sting.

Brandt suggests seeing a doctor soon to determine whether you are overly sensitive to insect venom. By starting proper medication now your resistance can be built up by the time golf season begins, according to Brandt. The American Medical Association reports that such therapy has proved effective for about 95 percent of those treated for stings.

Based on other information from the AMA, Brandt calls attention to the following tips that may help avoid attracting insects and prevent stings:

- Insects sting only in self defense when threatened or disturbed, especially if their nests are endangered. They are apt to attack something that stirs the air and excites them.
- Bees seem to be attracted to and/or angered by dark colors.
- Light pastel shades don’t seem to annoy them.
- Insect repellents may help in avoiding insects.
- As insects are attracted to floral scents, avoid using after-shaves, colognes or other cosmetic preparations before teeing off.
- If a bee, wasp or yellow jacket flies close to or lands on you, try to stay still or move slowly. Chances are, if you attempt to brush it away the motion will frighten the insect, and it will attack.

Study Shows No Pesticide Residue Buildup to Date

Analyses of soil samples from all parts of the country have failed to show any buildup of pesticide residues, according to Dr. Paul F. Sand of the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service.

Speaking at the Weed Society of America meeting recently held in Las Vegas, Sand explained that an expanded soil monitoring program was initiated last year to get information on residues in both cropland and non-cropland soils. About 15,000 sites were sampled throughout the United States, Sand revealed. A pesticide history is kept for each site and soil samples are analyzed at the Gulfport, Miss., lab. The work is continuing.

“Once the initial pesticide soil status report is compiled for each area, we can go back periodically and retest to see if residues are building up or decreasing,” Sand said.

It will be a long-term project, he concluded, as it will take several years to develop an accurate picture of what is happening to pesticide residues in our soils.

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