



# Approved or not approved? The pesticides registration muddle

by JON ALLBUTT

Agronomists, advisers, employers and users beware, the product you are recommending or proposing to use may not be approved any more.

Some of our favourite products may not be around much longer. A combination of the MAFF review process and in-house reviews of commercial viability by the approval holders is resulting in many products being discontinued. Inevitably there will be misguided reporting of this in the media, which does not help to clarify what is a very confusing situation.

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides has the power to recommend to Ministers that products be withdrawn (have their approvals revoked) on safety grounds. The registration process also requires regular updating of data packages, labels, container design etc. The cost of all this to the approval holder is sometimes prohibitive and the decision may be to discontinue the product, as sales do not support any further work.

To report all this in terms of 'another product banned' is irresponsible and only serves to further confuse. The most recent edition of the official listing of approvals and withdrawals – 'The Pesticide Register' – is written for those who already understand 'the system' and can read the formal technical language. The fact that a popular product appears in the list of withdrawals might only mean that the approval holder is disposing of an old approval, having previously improved the product by a minor formulation change – which requires registration and thus another approval number. Confused? – you will be! The Pesticides Register is not the best place to look unless you are an expert.

If you are giving advice on the use of pesticides you should hold a BASIS Certificate and be on the BASIS Professional Register. This requires that you agree to undertake annual Continuous Professional Development in order to maintain your registration. Those seeking advice which will include the use of pesticides should make sure the advisor is up to date and is on the BASIS Professional Register.

When it comes to reviewing your use of pesticides under the COSHH Regulations and you are updating your inventory, consult your supplies representative, distributor or manufacturer in order to establish that the product approval is on-going.

I am constantly hearing comments from greenkeepers that such and such a product has been banned, hasn't it? A case of the grapevine not working well for once!

■ The author and consultant advisor, Jon Allbutt, is a member of the Register of Practitioners for Pesticide Advice under categories that include Amenity Horticulture, Forestry and Aquatic.



■ Derek Keen, twelve years with The Whitbread Group (which incorporates Country Club Hotels), has taken management responsibility for all 14 UK courses in the group, as well as a golf complex outside Hamburg. Derek began his career as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1963, and worked within CCH as course manager at both Tudor Park Hotel G&CC and Telford Hotel G&CC before moving into regional management in 1989.

■ Raymond Hunt, formerly course manager at Goodwood Park Hotel G&CC, West Sussex, has also been promoted by Country Club Hotels and is now course manager at the Forest of Arden Hotel G&CC, Warwickshire, site of the Murphy's English Open for 1993.



■ Is Steve Welch the fittest greenkeeper in the land? Few would argue after Taunton Vale's 36 year old head greenkeeper finished 28th in the World Trail Running Championships, held in June over a gruelling cross-country course of 80 miles which included a total of 9,000 feet of climbing! Steve, whose time of 13.5 hours enabled him to raise healthy sums for local charities, says "being fit has its benefits on the course. It's often much quicker to run and sort out a problem than to take a vehicle."



■ One of a galaxy of highly skillful Scottish golfing greenkeepers and a regular contender for top honours in national and regional golfing events, Kevin Peace is about to show the members of Inverurie Golf Club that he is just as proficient on the golf course without a golf club in his hands. Latterly first assistant to Hugh McLatchie at Peterhead, Kevin is making his move into golf course management for the very first time. We join with his many colleagues in Scotland in wishing him every success.



■ Dr Neil Baldwin, until recently the STRI's plant pathologist, has become technical manager responsible for amenity products at Service Chemicals plc, Daventry. A regular 'face' on the greenkeeping lecture circuit, Neil is perhaps best known to greenkeepers for his research into dry patch problems. His primary role at Service Chemicals will be concerned with the research and development of new products, together with technical support programmes for the company's existing range, which includes Turfex, Go Green and Spraywet. In addition, Neil also intends to develop an advisory/consultancy service to the turfgrass industry as well as appearing on the lecture platform and writing technical articles for Greenkeeper International.

■ PSD Agronomy and Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd have moved to 42 Garstang Road, Preston, PR1 1NA., though they keep their existing telephone numbers. Consultants David Stansfield, Mike Harbridge and John Hacker can be contacted on 0772-884450 or fax 0772- 884445.

■ Yorkshire turf specialists Rolawn announce that it has begun cultivation of a new turf for golf greens. As yet unnamed, it is expected to create major inroads in the market for superior golf greens turf and is expected to be available next spring.

"We have carried out an intensive research project into the best methods and materials available for cultivating the finest greens turf," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn sales and marketing manager. "Today's discerning golfer expects to play on only the very best playing surface and to cater for this