

## BEWARE OF BIRD KILLS ON GOLF COURSES WHEN USING NEMACUR SC

The registration last fall of Nemacur SC (the liquid formulation) for nematode control on golf courses was very welcome, since the new label seems to have several advantages over the granular formulations of Nemacur and Mocap that are also registered for the same purpose:

1. Less active ingredient would be applied per acre, resulting in lower costs to the course, less material to be stored and handled, and presumably less risk to the environment.

2. Spray equipment is inherently easier to calibrate accurately and provides more uniform application than granule applicators. Every course should have one or more appropriate sprayers in excellent condition and with which the application crew is very familiar, thus more likely to be used properly.

However, the great increase in the amount of acreage treated with Nemacur as a result of this new registration may be increasing the risk of an undesirable effect of this material. Fenamiphos, its active ingredient, is highly toxic to birds. There have been rumors and at least one confirmed instance of significant bird kills after spray application of Nemacur SC, in which label instructions seem to have been followed very carefully. Cattle egrets are apparently the bird species most commonly affected.

Egrets often follow any kind of machinery just as they follow cattle, hoping to pick up insects disturbed by its passage. Mole crickets often come to the soil surface after Nemacur application, so the birds can readily feed on mole crickets emerging from treated soil. There may be enough active ingredients in the insects to affect birds that feed on many of them. In addition, physical limitations of irrigation systems generally make it impossible to apply irrigation to the entire course simultaneously, so birds may in some cases be attracted to a treated area before the sprinkler system has reached it. They thus may be directly exposed to the chemical before it is washed into the soil.

The danger of this problem should be apparent: a few well-publicized bird kills could affect this registration of Nemacur SC, and possibly other labels as well. Golf course superintendents should take every effort to minimize the risk of bird kills when applying Nemacur. Do everything possible to get the chemical watered in immediately after application; delay means risking exposure of wildlife, pets, etc. to the material. Applications made late in the afternoon or evening may provide more time to get Nemacur well irrigated into the soil before the early morning period of high activity of egrets and other birds. Courses that are heavily infested with mole crickets may be able to reduce the risk of intoxicated insects attracting birds by scheduling treatments for months when the insects have not yet hatched, or are very small and thus less apparent and attractive to birds.

## EPA PROPOSAL TO CANCEL DIAZINON GOLF COURSE and SOD USES

EPA's proposed decision to cancel the golf course and sod farm uses of diazinon was supported by the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). The agency's presentation and defense of its proposed decision earned praise from SAP members, other EPA officials, some representatives of environmental organizations and others who agreed with the action. The preliminary report said the SAP found that the weight of evidence supported the proposed cancellation of the two uses and stated that to respond to the concern about the risk of adverse effects to birds from the use of the pesticide on home lawns, parks and other sites, it would be appropriate for EPA to call in data on these other sites. The Panel agreed with EPA that the diazinon risk to birds was unacceptable and that bird kills could not be eliminated by changes in application. SAP recommended that EPA investigate the hazards of diazinon-alternatives. For diazinon, regulatory actions other than cancellation will not work, the SAP preliminary report declared. (P&TCN, 5/28/86, p 20 & 21)

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## Lofts Turf Field Day Draws Crowd to NJ Research Center

Lofts Inc. recently hosted its annual Turf Field Day. Each year Lofts opens its research headquarters to members of the turf industry including golf course superintendents, lawn care operators and distributors of turf seed.

The program began with a presentation on seed quality, presented by Dr. Richard Hurley's, Lofts' Research Director, followed by a discussion on summer lawn establishment, led by Rutgers University's Dr. Bruce Clark. Dr. Louis Vasvary, also of Rutgers, spoke on insect problems, diagnosis and control. The final topic of turf-type tall fescues, was covered by Dr. Thomas Turner of the University of Maryland.

Following a picnic lunch, guests toured Loft's research plots. It was an excellent opportunity to see first-hand the comparative performances of several varieties under various conditions. Certain new varieties could be observed such as Repell Perennial Ryegrass. Repell contains a natural fungus, an endophyte, which resists certain turf insects.

Lofts' Field Day is an excellent opportunity for professionals to learn the latest developments in the turf field and discuss common interests with their colleagues. To be notified of next year's Field Day, contact Lofts Inc., Chimney Rock Road, Bound Brook, NJ 08805. Telephone: (201) 356-8700. ■