

DIAZINON

Information Update

CIBA-GEIGY has received notification from New York State that it has issued a 60-day stop use order on diazinon for sod farm and golf course use because of alleged unreasonable hazards to birds. Diazinon is the preferred insecticide for controlling grubs and other turf-destroying pests. It has been registered for use for more than 30 years.

The state based its action on alleged incidents of bird kills, principally waterfowl, attracted to turf. Based on the information made available, CIBA-GEIGY contends that the two of 54 nationwide bird kills examined by New York officials did state investigators find sufficient evidence to show that diazinon had been correctly applied according to label directions.

A few bird kills documented to have occurred following proper use of diazinon in 30 years of millions of applications indicates that the product can be used safely -- more than 99 percent of the time. CIBA-GEIGY feels it has been proven that diazinon does not cause unreasonable adverse effects on bird populations when used as proposed by labeling on file with the EPA.

Over the 30-year period, diazinon has been implicated as the potential cause of death of approximately 2,000 birds. The argument made by EPA and others that a large number of bird deaths from diazinon go unreported is purely speculation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimates that each year some 57 million birds are killed by automobiles. Several billion more are killed annually by predators or other natural causes, according to the American Ornithologists' Union. Another 120 million are killed by hunters.

The USFWS concludes that these large kills have no bearing on the success of any bird species, with the exception of hunting. Further, at a recent EPA Scientific Advisory Panel meeting, the USFWS testified that no evidence links diazinon to population reductions in any bird species. The total annual U.S. avian population remains constant at approximately ten billion birds.

Recent studies have shown the numbers of Canada geese, a species sensitive to diazinon because of its foraging habits, are actually on the increase. The population of Atlantic Brant geese, a species of which 700 were allegedly killed from diazinon exposure in 1984, showed a healthy increase in 1985.

Diazinon can be used safely when applied at the recommended rate of no more than four pounds of active ingredient per acre for a single application. Two extensive field studies with granular and liquid formulations of diazinon applied at this rate followed by irrigation of one-quarter inch of water provided an adequate margin of safety for dabbling birds, such as mallards, and foraging birds, such as geese.

There is no such thing as zero risk in our society. The minute numbers of birds killed by diazinon exposure represents a tremendously minor risk when compared with the benefit of controlling turf pests. The action taken by New York is not practical, reasonable, or based on sound review of the available data. CIBA-GEIGY will vigorously defend the continued sod and golf course uses of diazinon. ■

People on the Move

LESCO, INC., Rocky River, OH, has named Phil Gardner Vice President of its lawn care sales division. Barbara Craycraft will become manager of all large volume accounts.

Gardner began his career with LESCO in 1976 as a LESCO golf course salesman. He was named regional sales manager in the southeastern United States in 1979, and in 1983 became manager of LESCO product facilities in Sebring, FL. Gardner was named a LESCO Vice President in 1985.

Gardner had previously worked with Groezinger Golf Enterprises as a superintendent of Blackhawk and Minerva Lakes Golf Courses near Columbus, OH.

Barb Craycraft has been a part of the LESCO organization since 1966. She served as receptionist, secretary, manager of inside sales and manager of the LESCO lawn care division.

Craycraft attended Ohio State University. ■



**Lakes have feelings too.
Treat 'em right.**

WE PROVIDE:

- aquatic weed and algae control
- lake clarification
- fountains, parts and installation
- fish stocking
- aquascaping
- free estimates

Service Locations Statewide
1-800-637-5240

The Lake Doctors, Inc.
Aquatic Management Services