

Sod producers conference July 23-25

CHICAGO — Twenty-five years of development will be highlighted during the American Sod Producers Association Summer Convention and Field Days, scheduled for July 23-25 in Chicago.

The convention opens with educational programs — exploring what the next 25 years may hold — at the Fairmont Hotel. The ASPA Annual Business Meeting, including the election of '92-93 officers, will be conducted later in the day, followed by the commemorative

dinner/dance.

The following morning, the first of two field day programs will be held at Central Sod Farm in Naperville, Ill. Saturday is ASPA Tour Day, which will end with a luncheon.

The ASPA is an independent, international trade association representing some 870 turfgrass sod producers in the U.S., Canada and 21 additional countries. For further information on the ASPA and its summer convention, call 708-705-9898.

Environmental awareness campaign

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Agri-Diagnostics' larger campaign, is co-sponsored by Ciba-Geigy, the manufacturer of plant protection products, including Exhibit biological larvicide. If superintendents purchase a case of Exhibit by Aug. 15, 1992, a donation will be made toward placement of the advertisement.

The advertisement, entitled "Caring For The Earth," will appear in selected golf publications. A promotional kit containing posters, copies of the advertisement and a press release will be sent to participating superintendents for use in club mailings and other promotions.

"Golfers may not be aware of the effort golf course superintendents put into meeting the

twin challenges of keeping golf courses green and protecting the environment," said Jim Donovan, manager of sales and marketing for Agri-Diagnostics. "Through this campaign, we hope to create public understanding and recognition of the scientific practices and technologies superintendents are applying to safeguard the environment."

The Reveal Kit is a turf-management system that uses immunoassay technology (a process proven effective in medical diagnostics) in a non-traditional way to detect the presence of three widespread turf diseases: brown patch, Pythium blight and dollar spot.

For more information on the campaign, call Donovan at 609-727-4858.

Label changes for atrazine

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cleaning up winter annual weeds.

"It's certainly not a major-use chemical, but it's very popular in North Carolina, particularly the Charlotte area. It's a good product."

However, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, atrazine is also the most widely detected pesticide in water monitoring studies in the Midwest corn belt.

Some of the more pertinent label changes, which will be in place for the 1993 crop season, are as follows:

- An application set-back of 200 feet around all natural or impounded waters (reservoirs and lakes).
- A setback of 66 feet from the points where field runoff water enters perennial or intermittent streams and rivers. On highly erodible land, the 66-foot setback must be vegetated.
- All mixing and loading operations must have a 50-foot setback from intermittent streams, rivers, reservoirs, impounded and natural lakes, sink holes and all wells, drainage or abandoned.

According to O'Brien, the label changes are warranted because atrazine "tends to move in the soil."

However, concerns surrounding golf course application of atrazine are limited, said Dr. B.J. Johnson, a research weed scientist at the University of Georgia.

"This could be a problem, but not as much with turf," said Johnson. "There's not quite so much runoff in a golf application. And besides, it's a regional thing."

Ciba-Geigy markets an atrazine-based herbicide under the product name, Aatrex. According to Steve Spain, Ciba-Geigy's product manager for atrazine, the label changes focus on two areas.

"The new label will result in a reduction in the total amount of atrazine used, and will address conditions which increase the chance of surface-water runoff from treated fields," he said. "As a result of these efforts, we are more confident than ever that atrazine use, when managed properly, can continue to be a viable weed control option for growers without compromising water quality."

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