

EPA insists on sound laboratory practices

By HAL PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The federal Environmental Protection Agency has issued seven civil complaints against pesticide registrants seeking \$223,000 in penalties for violations of the agency's Good Laboratory Practice Standards (GLPS) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

The agency also issued letters of warning citing GLPS violations to other registrants and to laboratories where the studies support-

ing pesticide registrations were conducted.

"They didn't follow the good laboratory practices," said the EPA's Al Heier. "The transgression could be serious or not so serious. But we're very serious about these standards. We base our final decisions on registration on these studies.

"We have violations that are more serious than others, and that's reflected in the fines. But we do this because we think it's important they follow very strict procedures."

Under FIFRA's section 14, a registrant may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each alleged offense. Other entities, such as testing facilities, must receive a written warning prior to being assessed a civil penalty. FIFRA's Notice of Warning are sent to sponsors/registrants guilty of minor violations.

Of the \$223,000 in penalties, \$47,000 is being sought from golf course industry suppliers. Among them:

- A penalty of \$32,000 in an eight-

count civil complaint was issued against North Carolina-based Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Co., the registrant of plant growth regulator Ethephon, for failure to comply with the FIFRA GLPS in conducting four studies in support of Ethephon's registration. A letter of warning was also issued to Innovative Scientific Services of Highland Park, N.J., the laboratory which conducted the studies.

- A penalty of \$5,000 in a one-count civil complaint was issued against Roussel Uclaf Corp. of Montvale, N.J., registrant of the insecticide, SBP-1382 Technical with Antioxidant. The EPA fine was

levied for failure to maintain all underlying raw data supporting registration of this product as required under section eight of FIFRA.

- A penalty of \$10,000 in a two-count civil complaint was issued against the registrant of the herbicide DPSX-L5300, E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. of Wilmington, Del. The firm was cited for failure to report two studies (1986, 1988) showing unreasonable adverse effects to EPA within 30 days of having been made aware of the information. DuPont informed EPA of these effects in 1992, a violation of section 6(a)(2) of FIFRA.

• A letter of warning for GLPS technical violations associated with four studies in support of the registration of the insecticide Methidathion 2E was sent to the registrant, Ciba-Geigy Agricultural Division in Greensboro, N.C.

• A letter of warning was also sent to Nichimen America Inc., in reference to technical violations associated with four studies in support of the registration of the insecticide Diazinon. A warning letter was also dispatched to Stillmeadow Inc. Bio Test Laboratory of Houston, Texas, the laboratory conducting the above named studies for both Ciba-Geigy and Nichimen.

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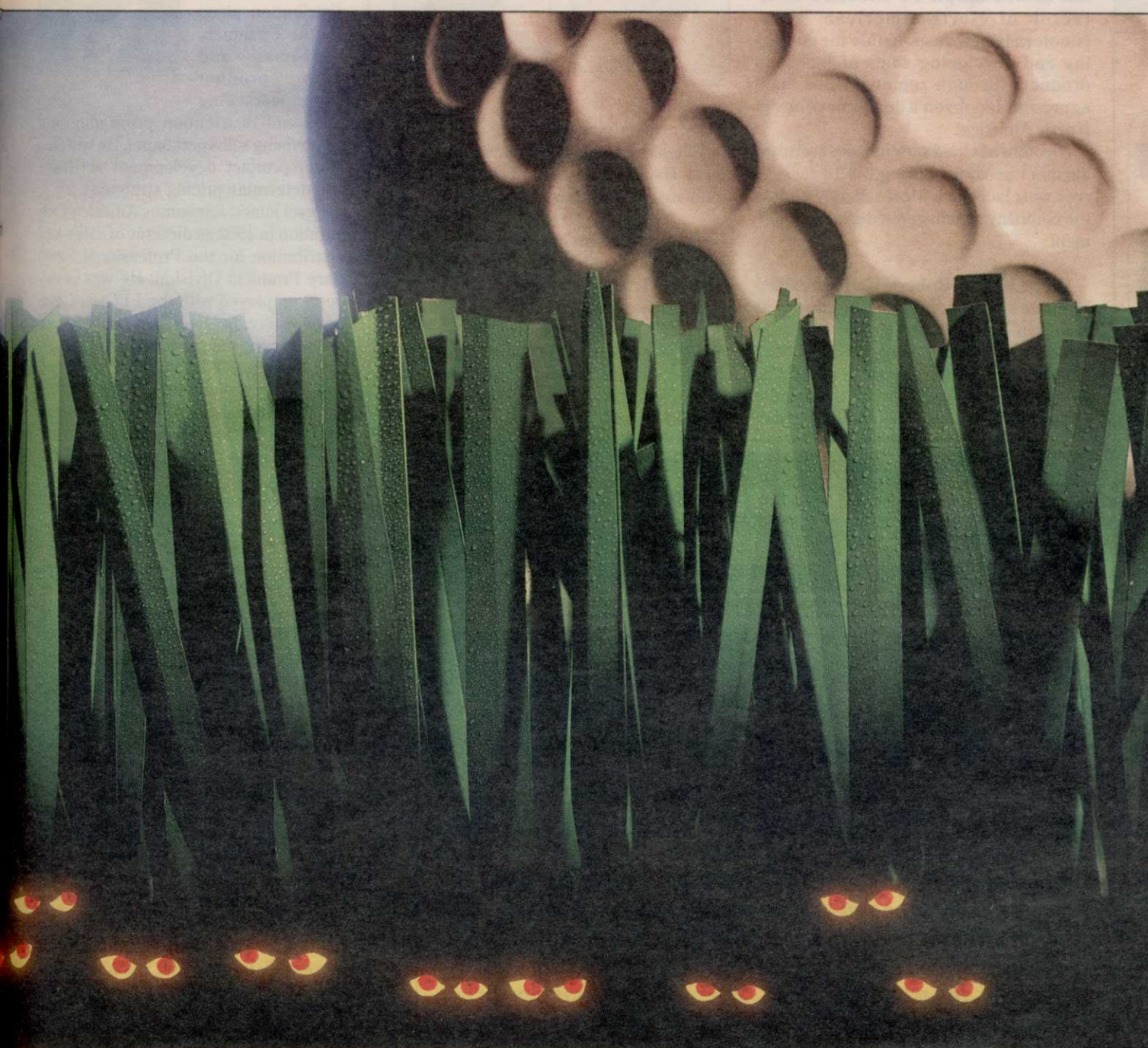
In other EPA news, the E-Z-Go Division of Textron Inc. was fined \$11,512 for exceeding the permitted limit of VOC (volatile organic compound) emissions. E-Z-Go agreed to pay the penalty and install additional equipment to control VOC emissions.

Caterpillar has also paid of \$225,000 in penalties for violations of the Clean Air Act engine certification and reporting requirements. EPA found that 397 heavy-duty engines of the model year 1991 were sold by CAT without being certified as required by the Clean Air Act. According to EPA, CAT changed the engine fuel-injection timing to that which was different from the timing specification state in its application for conformity certificate. EPA indicated the change could cause an increase in exhaust emissions. CAT was also cited for reporting this production change to EPA.

EPA okays FORE

PHILADELPHIA — Rohm and Haas Company has received EPA registration for FORE Flowable fungicide, a new, wet flowable formulation for the turf and ornamental market. The new flowable is designed to be easier to work with than the wettable powder formulation of FORE.

A wet flowable means the product is suspended in an aqueous material, offering the convenience of a liquid. The new formulation, available in 5-quart jugs, is designed to protect against costly problems such as slime mold, algae, rusts, Helminthosporium melting out, red thread, Fusarium blight, copper spot and brown patch.



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each application. You can even use CHIPCO® ALIETTE® to control Pythium and Phytophthora on your high-value ornamentals. Now, how's that for convenience and flexibility? Remember, as temperature and humidity rise, so does



the likelihood of Pythium tarnishing your hard-earned reputation. This year, strike first with the proven performance of CHIPCO® ALIETTE® brand fungicide.

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