

## Special review of triazines could lead to cancellations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun a Special Review of three chemically similar pesticides known as triazines to determine how seriously their residues affect food and drinking water.

The triazine pesticides — atrazine, cyanazine and simazine — are used to control broadleaf weeds and some grasses and are among the most widely used agricultural pesticides. The EPA has determined each of these pesticides could pose a significant risk to public health. The Special Review could lead to restrictions or even cancellation of the pesticides.

EPA studies with animals have shown that all three of the triazines under review produce mammary tumors in some strains of rats. They may also contribute to the still-increasing rate of breast cancer in American women, according to the EPA.

Triazines are among the most used pesticides in the U.S. on a volume basis. The EPA estimates about 90 to 120 million pounds of triazines are used annually in the U.S. Field corn accounts for about 80 percent of this use with sorghum accounting for another nine percent.

On golf courses, the triazines are used primarily as pre-emergent pesticides on warm season turfgrass.

The EPA has already taken actions to reduce the potential risks of the triazine products. In 1990, the use of atrazine was restricted to certified applicators (except for certain home turf products), application rates were reduced, protective clothing for agricultural workers was added as a label requirement, and application near wells was prohibited to protect ground water.

Then, in 1992, additional label changes were approved, including a further reduction in application rates, the requirement of buffer zones near surface waters, and deletion of non-crop uses. Similar label changes have also been approved for cyanazine,

### EPA ROUND-UP

including restricted use.

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The EPA has released a report describing the results of a 1992 agency initiative to reduce acute risks posed to birds by 12 granular pesticides.

The report, "Avian Granular Risk Reduction Initiative," indicates that most of the registrant/manufacturers of the 12 pesti-

cides participated in the initiative. The pesticides are diazinon, chlorpyrifos, methomyl, fonofos, disulfoton, fenamiphos, benidicarb, aldicarb and ethoprop.

Measures taken to reduce risks to birds include label changes for lower application rates, more complete soil incorporation of granules, new application technologies, limiting the number of applications per season, scouting to determine infestation levels before applying pesticides and cancelling certain

uses. Three of the pesticides — terbufos, phorate products and isofenphos — did not receive label amendments or other measures.

To obtain copies of the report call the Communications Branch in the Office of Pesticide Programs at 703-305-5017.

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A new reference book on integrated pest management (IPM) — the EPA's 650-page "Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals"

— covers management of insects, weeds, diseases in turf, trees and shrubs. The material was compiled by more than 80 researchers and experts from the U.S. The book was planned, organized and edited by Anne R. Leslie, an employee in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs who is nationally recognized for her efforts to prevent pollution and develop IPM, particularly on turf. Royalties from the book will go to a non-profit organization associated with the National Park Service to support future IPM projects. For more information contact Al Heier at 202-260-4374.

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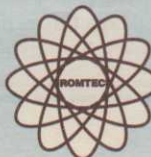
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### VICKSBURG TAPS GOLD KIST FOR DISTRIBUTORSHIP

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Vicksburg Chemical Co. has selected Gold Kist, Inc. to provide distribution services for its turf products in Alabama, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. Vicksburg Chemical manufactures K-Power, a line of potassium nitrate-based fertilizers for turfgrass. The K-Power line features numerous varieties of potassium nitrate-based products, including controlled-release mini-prills for both greens and fairways and water soluble blends. For more information contact Steve Derrick, Turf Products Manager at Gold Kist, at 404-393-5465.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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