

## Manufacturers deny broader spectrum claims

Superintendents everywhere are applying pre-emergent herbicides to fight an ever-widening array of weeds, and guess who is not buying their claims? The manufacturers themselves.

"People are claiming broader spectrum [for Barricade]," said Jeff Cook, Sandoz Agro's business manager for Barricade. "But the product's not changing. Users are targeting it on five or six key weeds. In our experience, it's more important to get 95 percent crabgrass control than to get 75 percent plus, say, spurge."

"People are always trying to add species [to a product]," said Joe Yoder, Sandoz' manager of technical service and product development for specialty products. "I don't think Barricade's different from [competitors]. 'Broader spectrum' is a sensitive term. Broader in what way? If it doesn't control what I want it to control, it's not broader in my view."

That is not to say that researchers are not working to expand the spectrum of control of their products, or other positive qualities, for that matter.

"We're looking at materials that we have invented, or that others have come up with to see how they will fit our markets," said Yoder. "We're interested in ways to help current products work better, as well as those that will be good in and of themselves. We want to get less material and a broader spectrum."

"We're working on quite a few things," said Janet Giesselman. The Rohm & Haas' Turf and Ornamental Product Manager pointed to "expansions that include using [Rohm & Haas'] Dimension for ornamentals. Particularly Stakeout, a granular formulation that would be very effective in landscapes or containers. Some of the key weeds it fights are spurge and oxalis — both of which it controls well, in addition to crabgrass and goosegrass. On the horizon is getting it labeled."

Rohm & Haas also hopes to add sod to Dimension's label. Working from observations showing an increased activity rate in granular versus liquid, researchers are working to determine that rate of response.

As Cook said: "Golf users are tough customers. You cannot promise what you can't deliver."

# Container disposal taking on added importance

By BRYAN TOLAR

Handling pesticide products properly, at least in a regulatory sense, is a subject that continues to be of much concern to pesticide applicators. A specific area of attention concerns the disposal of the bulky plastic containers which hold these products. The closing of some landfills and refusal of others to accept these materials is forcing changes of disposal practices and has the pesticide industry seek-

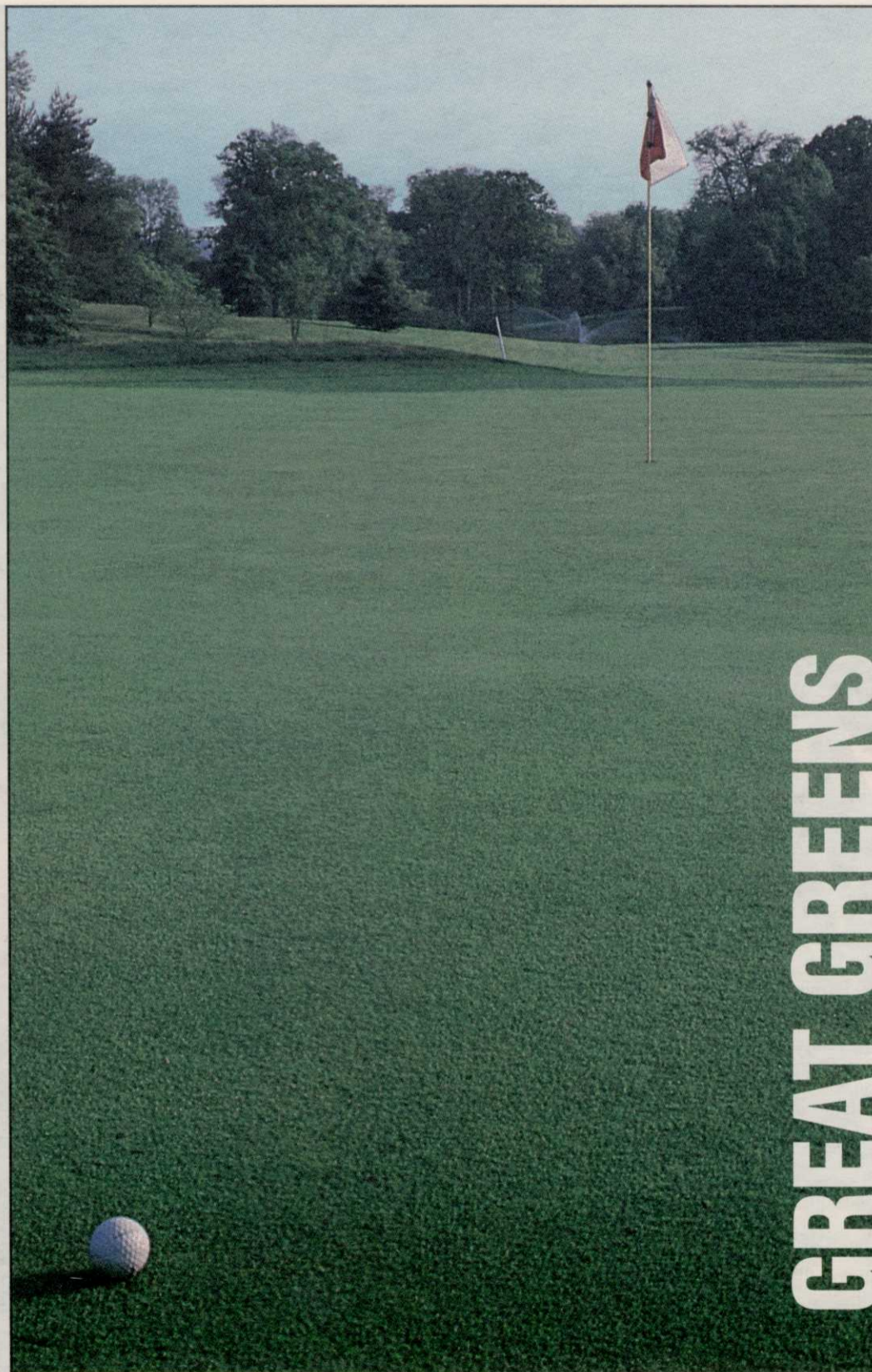
ing new, innovative ways to reduce and recover these types of materials.

Landfill space is becoming more valuable as new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) landfill operation requirements for these facilities have driven up costs for solid-waste disposal. Currently, landfills are under a 25-percent waste-reduction requirement by 1996 and are seeding out materials they can exclude from the waste stream.

Pesticide containers are often a target for waste reduction because of the amount of space they consume and the potential of improperly rinsed containers to leak into the soil and ground water. Without a landfill available to deposit empty containers, pesticide applicators may be without a legal means of disposal. This reality has prompted regulatory and industry officials to seek ways to solve this disposal dilemma.

One solution to combat the problem of container disposal is to establish an area pesticide container recycling program. Georgia has 26 such programs to date and anticipates collecting more than 100,000 plastic pesticide containers this year. This recycling program is coordinated through the Georgia Department of Agriculture and is offered free to pesticide applicators. Once a program has be-

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