

## 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-

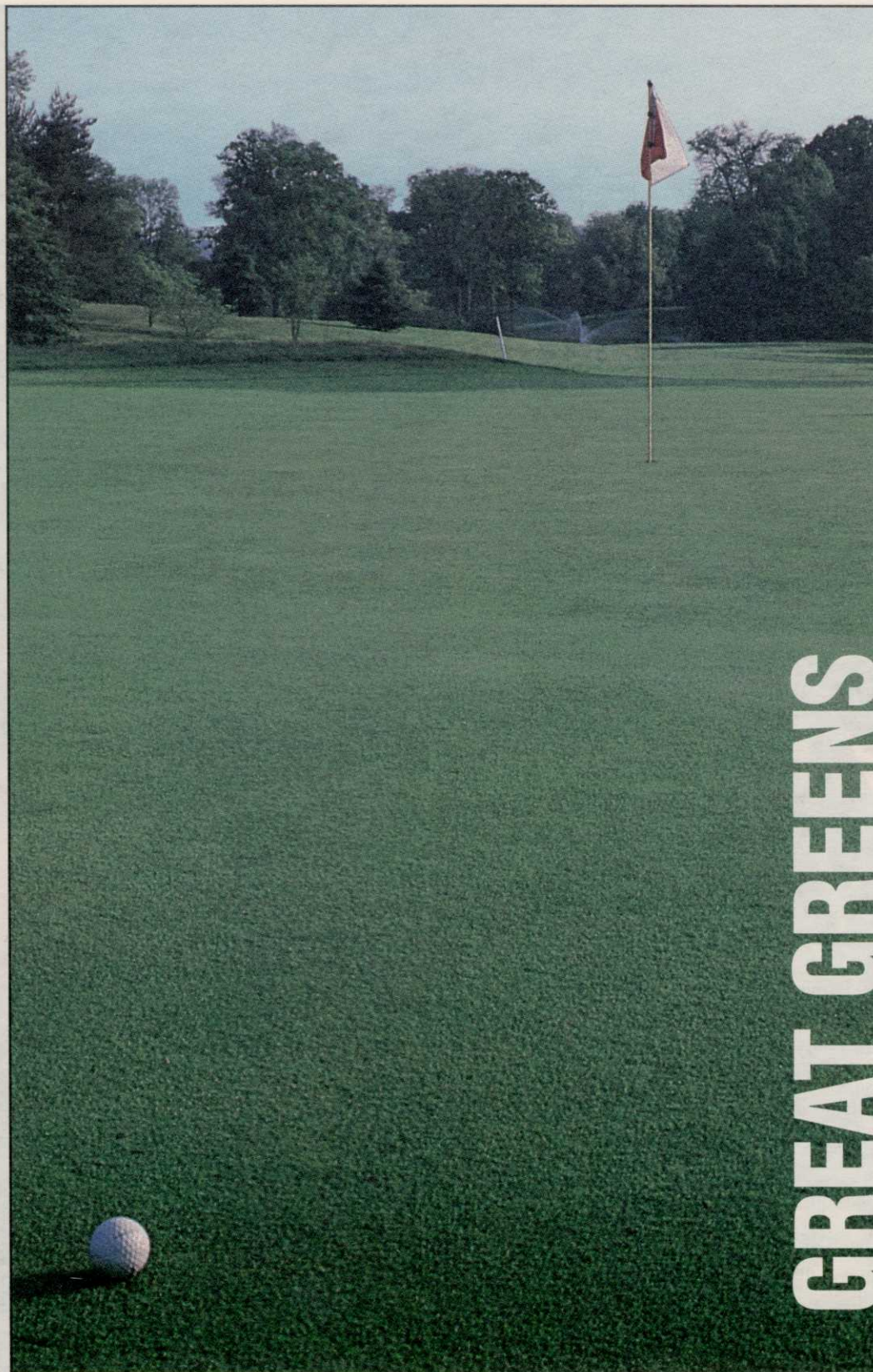
ing new, innovative ways to reduce and recover these types of materials.

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 been

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# Supers' proper pesticide container disposal is crucial

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gun in your area, rinsed containers can be delivered to a designated collection site, where a chipper will grind the jugs before sending them out for recycling.

Shipping pallets and new containers are products that can then be made from these chipped containers. Pesticide applicators like the program because it offers a legal means of disposal that will keep them in compliance with all label requirements for container disposal.

Additional improvements are being made as some pesticide manufacturers are chang-

ing the packaging of some products from plastic containers to a pre-measured dissolvable pouch. These pouches can be placed in the mix tank with only a foil bag in need of disposal and a cardboard box that can be offered for recycling. This method of packaging uses the latest in technology to provide convenience to the user while maintaining the effectiveness of the product. Check with chemical sales representatives to find out what opportunities for this type of packaging exist for the products you may be applying.

Violations for improper container disposal

have increased over the last few years as some applicators have failed to seek out alternatives to old container-disposal practices.

Even when taking advantage of landfill disposal, it is important to clean every container thoroughly by either triple- or pressure-rinsing.

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## Beard releases Fax newsletter

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dr. James B. Beard, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Texas A&M University and current president and chief scientist at International Sports Turf Institute, Inc., has a new subscription newsletter titled Turfax. Beard faxes the newsletter all over the world to golf course superintendents, sports turf managers, agronomists and others interested in the current developments in turfgrass.

Turfax is thorough, well conceived and has regular features, such as JB Comments, with Beard's opinions on many different turfgrass management topics. One column deals with new publications available on such subjects as university turfgrass proceedings, superintendent conference proceedings, university research reports, plant pathology books and any hot-off-the-press books of interest.

Beard has another feature, titled JB Visitations, that gives a brief, jam-packed account of where he has been around the globe and what he did or observed in the process. He also gives readers a list of upcoming JB Visitations.

The bi-monthly issues are usually six pages long. For more information people may contact: Dr. James B. Beard, International Sports Turf Institute, Inc., 1812 Shadowwood Dr., College Station, Texas 77840; telephone 409-693-4066; Fax 409-693-4878.

## Compu jargon

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clude electronic conferencing, limited electronic mail, and free software collections.

**Internet (or simply "the Net" to the initiated):** A vast global network of computers; in most cases, transfer of information across the network is free to the user. Users usually pay a monthly fee to obtain dial-up access to a local internet provider. In addition, there may be an hourly fee for time spent on-line. Well-known systems that provide Internet access include Compuserve, America on-line, and Prodigy.

Depending on your provider, Internet resources you may have access to include:

**Electronic Mail or e-mail:** Once you're on the Internet, you can send electronic correspondence to anyone else on the Net, anywhere in the world, usually at no additional cost. Messages typically arrive at their destination in a few minutes; as a result, many e-mail users now refer to the traditional postal service as "snailmail."

**Gopher:** A text-based tool for navigating the Internet. Using a menu-driven system, users can browse among thousands of information sources around the world providing such services as database searching and free software archives.

**World-Wide Web:** Another internet navigation tool, but much more sophisticated than Gopher, the Web is the current Cadillac of Internet services. Individuals, corporations, and universities have produced thousands of "Web Pages" which can contain text, audio, and even video information on a given subject. Users can jump to related pages by simply clicking on "hypertext links." The result is an extremely intuitive means of obtaining information on virtually any subject.

**Dr. David M. Rose, who earned his PhD in cellular developmental biology, is a research fellow in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School. His e-mail:**

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