

# Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

## Business briefs

### Syngenta phasing out diazinon

After analyzing its financial performance, Greensboro, N.C.-based Syngenta Crop Protection USA announced a four-year phase out of its diazinon insecticide business. Syngenta coordinated the plan with EPA to ensure the phase-out is in accordance with margins of safety required by the Food Quality Protection Act.

"Declining profit margins are the reason for our market withdrawal decision," said Eileen Watson, spokeswoman for Syngenta. "Although diazinon sales have remained strong, the margins on this product have continued to erode due to a very competitive market place. The investment to keep diazinon on the market can no longer be justified."

### Dow offers new label for Dursban

While Indianapolis-based Dow AgroSciences, the makers of chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and the EPA agreed last summer to limit most outdoor residential and non-residential uses of the insecticide, Dursban Pro is still available for golf course use. But on Dec. 1, product with labels reflecting a reduced application rate entered the market.

The new label reduces application rates from four pounds of active ingredient per acre to one pound or two quarts per acre — enough to effectively control more than 25 turf pests. The new rate is not a maximum that can be applied per season. Rather, it is the maximum that can be used during any single application.

But superintendents with supplies of Dursban Pro should read and follow label instructions on their existing stock, a Dow AgroSciences spokesman noted.

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## Stayin' Alive

BOOK TELLS HOW TO FIGHT  
OFF GATORS AND DEAL WITH  
OTHER DIRE EMERGENCIES

By Mark Luce

**D**on't think for a second that the alligator living in the pond on No. 13 won't hurt you. He will. But thanks to a new book, *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* (Chronicle Books, \$14.95), hackers can learn not only how to fend off unwelcome gator attacks, but also how to get out of quicksand, survive an avalanche or perform a tracheotomy.

Let's start with an alligator attack. According to authors Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht, there are two keys to get out of this precarious situation: First, first cover the alligator's eyes to make it "more sedate;" second, bop the beast on its nose to make it open its jaws to free your other arm.

As the authors say, you never know when you'll have to break down a door, hotwire a car, take or deliver a punch or deliver a baby in the back-seat of cab. They supply easy, step-by-step instructions on how to get out of these and other binds. Paramount, of course, to any dicey plight is to remain calm, even if, as the authors explain in the book, you're being shot at.

There's something creepy about

subjects such as how to survive if your parachute fails or how to land a plane (when the pilot is incapacitated or dead), but reading the straightforward instructions make all the scenarios possible to survive (well, maybe not the unopened parachute). Some instructions, though, are common sense, such as how to escape from a swarm of killer bees — run!

Most of us will probably never jump from a building into a dumpster or find ourselves in a sword fight. But chapter five, "Adventure Survival," has plenty of useful tips for more likely situations — adrift at sea, lost in the desert or mountains, stuck inside during an earthquake or the ever-popular how to make a fire without matches.

You get the sense the authors spent too much time watching bad action movies, but the book is a fun read, informative and could save your life. It also fits in your back pocket, which will come in handy if you find yourself close to the gators in the drink.

MIKE KLEMM

