

Tom Hopf Reports On Recent E.P.A. Meeting

Held on October 28 in Madison, Wisconsin, the purpose of the meeting was a two way exchange of ideas and information between representatives of the EPA and people of state and local governments, universities and private industries.

The major part of the meeting was devoted to discussion of pesticide registration and labeling, but the following information may be helpful to you as turf managers.

Reregistration of pesticides and the adoption of programs covering the certification of pesticide applicators have been extended from October of 1976 to October of 1977. Pesticides are presently being reregistered and in some cases reclassified. Any change in classification will be preceded by a notice in the Federal Register sixty days in advance. Minnesota has adopted an applicators certification program that is being implemented through the University of Minnesota and the State Department of Agriculture.

Special pesticide use permits can be obtained for use of restricted chemicals from the state if the use is warranted.

The EPA does not presently or in the future plan to aim pesticide regulation at the dealer level. Regulation is aimed at the manufacturer through registration and at the user who is to be tested and certified by the state in which he conducts his business.

The EPA plans little or no enforcement of pesticide laws to the user. This will be up to each state. There have been rumors to the effect that the EPA will enforce their regulations in the same manner as OSHA but their representative gave assurance that this will not happen.

The EPA presently has no plans for massive training and education programs directed to the pesticide user. The main reason is probably lack of funding. This again will probably be up to each state through the certification programs.

The EPA can order at their discretion a recall of pesticides in one of the following methods: (1) Use. Halt production and allow remaining stock to be used until gone. (2) Reclaim. (3) Recall. Method No. 1 is preferred in most cases

Fertilizer-Pesticide blends will not be reregistered. This, in my mind, may make it pay in the future to be careful what you purchase. Part of the reason for registration is to ensure the user that each pesticide product will do the job that the manufacturer claims it will do.

Pesticide labeling not only includes the label on the package or container but also any booklet or instructions that may be attached or inside the container including advertising that is approved by the EPA.

Federal registration of pesticides can be accomplished for special use through state agencies (Section 24C). Many manufacturers register products for specific uses. Even though these same products may have other uses, it is illegal to use them for applications they are not registered for.

The future of Chlordane and Mercury is still undecided. It is accepted by many that the manufacture of Chlordane has been halted. This is not true...yet. Federal hearings are in progress at this time on both of these pesticides. It should be known early in December whether we can still use them or not. It looks now like we will probably lose both of them as the EPA is fighting hard to have them banned.

Someone raised the question, "How many people can a certified applicator supervise?" No answer was given, but I wouldn't be surprised to hear one soon.

There is much controversy over the use of 2.4.5.T. No decision has been made because the EPA feels it needs a three to five year time period for research.

In conclusion it was encouraging to see that EPA is seeking information from us that could influence their thinking and possibly benefit us through their future decisions. Throughout the session I was impressed with the open minded discussions of all parties and the willingness of the EPA representatives to listen to our problems.

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