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topdressing materials and improving air flow where possible, while maintaining balanced fertility. However, because of the explosive nature of this disease, fungicides are usually relied upon for effective disease management.

Fungicides are important for Pythium management

MANY FUNGICIDES ARE AVAILABLE for the control of Pythium Blight. Nearly all of these fungicides, however, are only effective against Pythium species diseases. Therefore, an accurate diagnosis is essential for effective control. Contact fungicides available for Pythium Blight control include chloroneb (various trade names), ethazole (Koban®, Terrazole®), and mancozeb (various trade names). Systemic fungicides labeled for Pythium species control include metalaxyl (Subdue®), propamocarb (Banol®), and fosetyl Al (Aliette®).

Generally, these fungicides are effective in suppressing Pythium Blight, but the level of control and the duration of that control will vary. Also, the duration of control by a particular product will vary considerably, depending on the conditions at each site. When using a long-term fungicide preventive program, their applications should always be rotated among the various available materials to avoid the development of a fungicide-resistant population of Pythium. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Oregon fines Great Western for mislabeling seeds

THE OREGON DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE and Oregon State University have jointly brought the Great Western Seed Co. to task for mislabeling grass seed bags. The company was fined \$81,000 for substituting uncertified seed for certified seed—the largest civil penalty to date for a case of its kind in Oregon. The company also was placed on one-year probation and its “approved certified warehouse” status was revoked for two years.

The case grew out of a customer complaint to the university, which handles the certification process. The company has issued a press release saying that it corrected the problems in question before the state investigation.

E.P.A. files suit against Miles

THE E.P.A. HAS FILED A CIVIL COMPLAINT AGAINST MILES, INC. for the alleged late reporting of tests that indicated that two of their prominent pesticides might be potential human carcinogens.

In their complaint, the E.P.A. alleges that on two separate occasions Miles (formally named Mobay) failed to notify the agency, in a timely manner, when it became aware of test results that indicated that two of their products—Bayleton and Dylox—induced tumors in laboratory mice.

A section of FIFRA, the enabling legislation, requires that, if a company receives new contrary information about a product that is already registered, the company must submit the new data to the E.P.A. within 30 days. In the case of Bayleton (Triadimefon,) the E.P.A. claims that Miles failed to notify the E.P.A. for 27 months, and 10 months in the case of Dylox.

Notification act redrafted

THE NOTIFICATION CONTROL AND APPLICATION ACT OF 1991 will not be brought to the floor of Congress until next session. The redrafted U.S. Senate bill S.849 is designed to establish local registries for pesticide sensitive people and posting requirements that include homeowner-applied pesticides

The bill, that requires the states to establish registries for people who want advance notice of a neighbor's pesticide applications, would require 72 hours written notice to people on the registry. Also, the bill will expand posting requirements to include homeowners—with explanation of the posting requirements to be printed on the packaging. The posting would be required just prior to the application of the pesticide.

E.P.A. will investigate granular pesticides danger to birds

THE E.P.A. HAS SELECTED 14 OF THE 99 GRANULAR PESTICIDES, which it sees as posing the highest risk to bird populations. The 14 compounds will be tested in both corn fields and turf. They include aldicarb, bendiocarb, carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, disulfoton, ethoprop, ethyl parathion, fenamiphos, fonofos, isofensphos, methomyl, phorate and terbufos.

E.P.A. & Texas college offer hotline

THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY and Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, have been cooperating in offering a 24-hour, 365 day-a-year, toll-free pesticide information hotline. Last year the hotline served 40,000–50,000 callers. The majority of the calls concerned pesticide safety. Callers also can get quick answers on detecting pesticide poisonings, spill clean-up and disposal information, and what to do in the case of a pesticide poisoning. The Hotline number is 1-800-858-PEST(7378). ■