

# EPA requires diazinon phase out

By Curt Harler/Managing Editor

**O**n December 5, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a plan to phase out diazinon for all lawn, garden and turf uses by December 2003. The phase-out for indoor uses begins this March.

Anyone who got into this industry in the past couple of decades grew up with diazinon as a standard recommendation for control of insects and grubs. It is the most widely used pesticide by homeowners on lawns and is one of the most widely used ingredients for application around homes and gardens.

Diazinon is an organophosphate that is widely used on turf, agricultural crops and for residential control of various insects indoors and outdoors. Its manufacturers, Syngenta and Makhteshim Agan, agreed to a plan which will eliminate 75 percent of the use of the material which totals about 11 million pounds annually.

Syngenta ([www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com)) is the result of the merger of Novartis and Zeneca Ag Products. The manufacturers say that doing the additional studies the EPA would require would go beyond revenues the prod-

uct would provide.

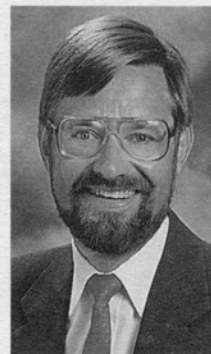
Diazinon is probably the last widely-used chemical in its class to be taken off the market by the EPA. The Agency, citing health risks to children as its reason for the action, already removed several other materials in the same class from the market.

"The Clinton-Gore Administration continues to aggressively target for elimination those pesticides that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment, and especially those posing the greatest risk to children," said former EPA Administrator Carol Browner in December.

"The action will significantly eliminate the vast majority of organophosphate insecticide products in and around the home, and by implementing this phase-out, it will help encourage consumers to move to safer pest control practice," she said.

For turf, lawn and garden uses, manufacturing stops June 2003. Sales and distribution to retailers ends August 2003. In addition, there will be a ratcheting-down for turf uses.

For more information, check [www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides).



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