## Florida To License 'Restricted Pesticide' Applicators

To lessen the likelihood of more accidents involving highly toxic pesticides, Florida's legislature has passed a law to keep these chemicals out of the hands of unauthorized users.

Legislation becomes effective Jan. 1, 1970. Purpose of the bill is to regulate the sale, purchase, use, and possession of certain "restricted pesticides." It will also require dealers and purchasers to have licenses or permits, explains Entomologist James E. Brogdon with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Restricted pesticide, he said, means any material which the Florida Department of Agriculture finds to be hazardous to man and his environment, or to animals or crops, with the exception of the pest or vegetation the pesticide is supposed to destroy, Brogdon said.

The list of restricted pesticides has not been determined, but a committee has been named to compile a list between now and October.

When it becomes effective, the bill will make it unlawful (1) to sell or distribute restricted pesticides without a license, (2) to purchase, use or possess restricted pesticides without a permit, and (3) to purchase, use or dispose of restricted pesticides or their containers in a manner other than that stated on the purchase permit or on the label.

Furthermore, Brogdon explained, restricted pesticides may only be purchased or used under an annual permit from the Department of Agriculture, or by a license. Such permits will be issued by the Commissioner on a form supplied by him. Authorization for a permit to purchase or use these highly toxic chemicals shall be based on a certificate issued by the County Agricultural Extension Agent, or any other person designated by the Commissioner.

Persons wishing to obtain such a permit must be certified as bona-fide users of restricted pesticides necessary for the operation of agricultural businesses.

Similarly, each person holding or offering for sale such restricted pesticides must obtain a license from the Commissioner. All licenses and permits will have to be renewed each year on July 1.

Finally, Brogdon said, the Commissioner may refuse, revoke, or suspend the permit or license of anyone who has violated any law or rule upon which these authorizations were issued.



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