

# Incriminating 2,4,5-T Test Is Invalid

Birth deformities in laboratory mice exposed to high dosages of 2,4,5-T may really have been caused by a toxic contaminator. The possibility is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The same substance may be contaminating other chemicals, so USDA is reviewing or gathering new data for 17 other herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. All 17 compounds are polychlorophenolic pesticides.

Ned D. Bayley, director of Science and Education, said the inquiry was initiated after new data submitted to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, indicated that the 2,4,5-T used in the study conducted by Bionetics Research Laboratories for HEW contained 27 parts per million of tetrachlorodibenzopara-dioxin, compared with only about 1 ppm of this contaminator generally found in the herbicide.

New data show that preliminary tests of 2,4,5-T with 1 ppm of this contaminator give no indication of birth deformities, Bayley told Rep. Richard McCarthy of New York.

It was the Bionetics study of 2,4,5-T, along with other pesticides, cited last October when USDA announced it would cancel registration



Newly elected Board of Directors of the National Landscape Nurserymen's Association are, from the left: (seated) Vice-President William R. Heard, Heard Gardens, Des Moines, Ia.; President Arthur W. Landseadel, The Secor Landscape Center, Toledo, Ohio; Secretary-Treasurer James A. McCarty, Colonial Garden Center, Inc., Evansville, Ind.; (standing) Herman R. Wallitsch, Director Region II, Herman R. Wallitsch Nurseries, Louisville, Ky.; Joe L. Strickfaden, Director Region III, Strickfaden Nursery, Sandusky, Ohio; Michael Ryan, Director Region IV, Old Orchard Gardens, Manchester, Mo.; Member-at-Large James Maschmeyer, Maschmeyer's Nursery, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.; Richard Kauffman, Director Region I, J. Franklin Styer Nurseries, Inc., Concordville, Pa.; Arthur Fitzsimmons, Director Region VII, Arthur Fitzsimmons Garden Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and Edward Teas, Director Region V, Teas Nursery Co., Inc., Bellaire, Tex. Not shown is Director of Region VI, Frank M. Tomlinson, Tomlinson's Select Nurseries, Whittier, Calif.

of this herbicide for use on food crops effective Jan. 1, 1970, unless FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, HEW, had established a safe legal tolerance for such use.

"We are awaiting advice from HEW as to whether it intends to establish tolerances for 2,4,5-T before we decide whether to cancel or extend uses of 2,4,5-T on food crops," the letter said. "Our Jan. 1, 1970, date was based on HEW's expectation that it would have reached a decision by that time. That agency

believes the public interest would best be served by waiting for additional research data which will be available shortly. We concur in the judgment."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: As WTT went to press, it was further learned that the solvent, DMSO, also was used in the Bionetics test. This material has been known to cause cancerous tumors. DMSO is not used as the solvent for commercial applications of 2,4,5-T.*

## Meeting Dates

Dates for this column need to reach the editor's desk by the 10th of the month preceding the date of publication.

**Southern Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference**, Hampshire Motor Inn, 7411 New Hampshire Ave., Langley Park, Md. Mar. 1-4.

**University of Massachusetts Annual Fine Turf Conference** at Highpoint Motor Inn in Chicopee, Mass., Mar. 4-6.

**36th Annual Turfgrass Conference, Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association**, Roosevelt Motor Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Mar. 9-11.

**North Carolina State University Turfgrass Conference**, Faculty Club at NCSU, Mar. 10-11.

**Western Society of Weed Science annual meeting**, Sacramento Inn, Sacramento, Calif., Mar. 17-19.

**University of Maine Mid-Winter Turf Conference**, Steer Inn Motor Lodge, Rte. 1, Maine Turnpike Exit No. 7, South Portland, Me., Mar. 18-19.

**California Park and Recreation Society** announces three regional workshops. Apr. 7 at Palo Alto Community Center on Middlefield Road; Apr. 8 at Carriage House Restaurant, 1210 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno; and Apr. 9 Parnell Park Activity Building, Whittier.

**Ohio Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference**, at the USDA Shade Tree and Ornamental Plants Laboratory at Delaware, Ohio, July 8.

**46th International Shade Tree Conference**, Hotel Flagship-Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 9-14.

