Pen a Note for Chlordane, Heptachlor

Those who feel chlordane and heptachlor are needed for control of soil insects in turf should write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Robert R. Garrison, president, Velsicol Chemical Corporation, manufacturer of the two insecticides.

"Otherwise, officials who regulate pesticides may assume these label registrations are no longer important and may cancel them," Garrison warned.

U.S.D.A. has requested comments and opinions regarding chlordane and heptachlor in the Federal Register on July 31, "in order to determine if certain uses are essential and if there are no effective and safe substitutes." Information concerning these insecticides, especially the insects controlled and the damage or injury expected without their use, should be sent before Oct. 29 to: Director, Pesticides Regulations Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. There still is a need for the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons for control of soil insects, Garrison commented, especially for those insects, such as grubs and wireworms, which have long life cycles.

Garrison said the concept that a pesticide be used only if the use is considered to be essential and if there is no effective and safe substitute will practically stop the future development of new pesticides.

"This concept provides no objective standard upon which regulations can be based," he said. "A chemical company cannot commit millions of dollars in research and development for a new pesticide if the market is temporary — that is, if the new pesticide is to be used only until another new pesticide is judged to be more effective and safer for a particular use. A company would never know for sure what factors would determine a compound being removed from the marketplace."

Arkansas Survey Sizes Up Alligatorweed

Alligatorweed infestations in Arkansas are not as severe as thought.

That's the conclusion of a survey taken recently by the Arkansas State Plant Board, Army Corps of Engineers and Extension Service personnel. The Corps covered major waterways and impounded waters by boat and airplane. County agents covered their areas.

Melvin C. Tucker, director of the division of plant industry, summarized the findings:

"Results were encouraging because alligatorweed was not found as widespread as anticipated. It is plentiful in bayous and canals in southwest Arkansas County where first discovered in the state. It also is in the Arkansas River in this vicinity. The mouth of Mill Bayou for some distance is completely choked and the Bayou Meto infestation is increasing rapidly.

"Bayou Bartholomew was found to be infested at Pine Bluff and for a few miles south of there. Swan Lake in that area is very heavily infested. The Arkansas River infestation, although light at present, poses a threat not only to river traffic and recreation but to agriculture in the entire Arkansas River Valley. This threat is made more serious by the loss of 2,4,5-T, and probably Silvex in time, to the anti-pesticiders.

"Other than the above serious problems, alligatorweed was found in lesser amounts in ornamental plantings in Blytheville and Little Rock. These infestations were probably in with nursery stock from the Mobile, Ala., area. A small farm pond was found infested south of El Dorado. The pond owner immediately stocked it with geese and they have reduced the weed population considerably this summer. The owner believes the geese will eliminate the alligatorweed in another year or so."

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