

the weakest links in the chain is in the diagnosis of pest problems and application of pesticides." These critical tasks often are done by unskilled, poorly paid and non-professional craftsmen, he said.

He suggested some pesticides should be classified for professional use only and restricted from use by anyone but a professionally licensed applicator. Training for such applicators would be provided in agricultural schools, he said.

"The grower would then pay for results and the whole process would be less poundage oriented and more result oriented," he said.

Extension Specialist Bill Harvey of the University of California at Davis offered still more information about herbicides and the environment, concluding "there is no real threat to the environment from the use of herbicides, other than the direct changes in vegetation which we expect from the applications we are making."

Harvey, who is known as "Mr. Weed" for his long association in the field and with the conference, said herbicides have relatively short persistence in the environment under most conditions, and few herbicides are toxic to man or animals.

Problems arise from drift, volatility, leaching and surface movement of herbicides, all of which are well known and usually can be guarded against, he said. "The one we have the most trouble with is drift," he said. "But remember, any herbicide in the environment is far more apt to be a hazard to other plant species than it is to any animal species."

"We need herbicides to change the environment so we can have more food, more fiber, a better place to live and be free of poison oak and some of these other annoying weeds," he concluded.

New officers of the California Weed Conference Executive Committee for 1971 are: President—Dell O. Clark, State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento; vice-president—Bryant Washburn, Washburn Agricultural Service, Davis; secretary—Howard Rhoads, California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo; business manager-treasurer—Warren V. Johnson, State Department of Water Resources, Sacramento; directors—Dave Bayer, University of California, Davis, and Paul Houghton, Southern Pacific Transportation Co., Oakland.

classifieds



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