

Copper Sulfate Not Harmful To Fish, Study Shows

Reports on the fate of nearly one and one-half million pounds of copper sulfate to control algae over the past 50 years fail to show any concentrations toxic to fish.

This is the conclusion of G. Fred Lee and Isaac Sanchez of the University of Wisconsin's department of civil and environmental engineering. The study concerned sampling water of Lake Monona at Madison, Wisc.

According to the researchers, the concentrations found in Lake Monona water are considerably less than the most stringent copper standards proposed by Federal or state regulatory agencies for protection of water quality.

The ban on the use of chemicals in the Madison lakes, passed last year, was made primarily on "emotional considerations," Lee said, "rather than technical evidence that copper sulfate was harmful to the lake's fisheries."

He said that in lakes such as Monona the nutrient supply is primarily from street runoff and other sources which are now almost im-

possible to control. In these situations, use of chemicals such as copper sulfate provides a method of improving water quality at very little risk to the ecosystem.

Lee suggests that a proper policy would be to have a qualified board of experts review any proposed chemical additions to Madison lakes to prevent excessive or improper use of chemicals for water quality control. He urged that as a part of any chemical use program for control of algae, weeds, or undesirable fish, more studies be done on the subtle effects of chemicals on organisms other than those the chemicals are designed to control.

Rapid Algal Growth Promoted by Herbicides

Growth of Algae is enhanced when herbicides are used to control weeds in lakes, says a University of Wisconsin researcher.

G. V. Simsiman, research assistant, reports that after herbicidal treatment, nutrients released by dead weeds promoted rapid algal growth.

Simsiman said he did not feel the

use of herbicides should be discontinued as they are the most effective weed control means available today. He advocated, however, additional research into use and effects of herbicides and their possible substitutes.

The researcher is currently studying how long herbicides remain in a water system after application.

Connecticut Entomologist Ends 43 Year Career

John C. Schread, one of the most widely known entomologists in the northeast, has retired after nearly 43 years on the staff of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

He is widely known for his work with nurserymen, greenskeepers, and other professionals in the field of entomology. He has addressed turf association meetings in California, Philadelphia, Washington, Montreal and throughout the northeast.

He is an honorary member of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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