

Postemergence Herbicide Announced By Monsanto

A new postemergence herbicide for the control of a broad spectrum of annual and perennial weeds and grasses has been announced by Monsanto Company's agricultural division.

Roundup is described by Monsanto spokesmen as a significant step forward in the control of hard-to-kill perennial weeds. The product has received much attention at most weed science society meetings this year.

Unlike some herbicides which control weeds by upsetting the chain of events that take place in photosynthesis (energy conversion), this compound is a glyphosate derivative that acts as an inhibitor of aromatic amino acid synthesis. Since amino acid is considered one of nature's building blocks, the chemical has the effect of inhibiting natural plant growth.

Roundup is water soluble and provides high unit activity as a contact herbicide. It also translocates downward within the plant to control underground roots or rhizomes.

At rates as low as one to two pounds product per acre tests have showed 100 percent control of rhizome Johnsongrass.

Initial potential uses for Roundup include industrial applications (highways, roadsides, fuel and power transmission rights-of-ways, airports, parking areas and railroads). It also has potential on drainage ditches and canals. It shows no evidence of soil movement. Preliminary studies indicate that it is inactivated when it comes in contact with the soil.

Mammalian toxicity of the compound is of a low order and fish and wildlife tolerance is high. Results of long term feeding studies have not been finalized, yet.

Roundup has not been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency at this time.

DuPont Ooze Irrigation Offered Free to Hort Men

Tests lengths of a new type of microporous tubing for ooze irrigation are to be offered free of charge to horticulturists as part of a Du Pont Company introductory program.

According to Richard C. Bergman of Du Pont, up to 1,500 feet of "Viaflo" porous plastic tubing will be supplied to a wide variety of greenhouse operators who will use the new product and report their reactions.

"Viaflo" is a flexible polyethylene tubing that is extremely strong and tear-resistant. It delivers a uniformly steady ooze of irrigating water through millions of micron-size holes. The microporous structure practically eliminates plugging when Du Pont filter recommendations are followed, Bergman said.

The tubing is three-quarters of an inch in width when flat and is packaged in 300-foot rolls. It is attachable to the water source by standard plastic couplings.

Because the tubing is unaffected by most chemicals, nutrients and other water soluble matter may be delivered to root systems through the "Viaflo" tubing, according to Bergman.

He said that the offer of free tubing to greenhouse operators is being made by Du Pont as the first step in development of a nationwide commercial distribution system to the horticulture industry.



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