

Government News

EPA has issued a statement on the "use of registered pesticides for control of pests not named on label on agricultural and non-structural pest control." The Pesticide Enforcement Policy Statement (PEPS) #5, defines what constitutes a knowledgeable expert and allows each state to decide whether or not to designate such experts. Experts, who must have extensive qualifying experience or a combination of qualifying education and experience, will have authority under defined limitations, to make recommendation for conditions under which registered pesticide may be used to control a pest not named in registration.

The question of plant toxicity was referred to the Consumer Product Safety Commission by the Federal Trade Commission. FTC voted to hold in abeyance other aspects of proposed plant labeling regulation.

Research on aquatic weed control and on the classification of economically important plant species will be conducted by Pakistani scientists under two foreign currency grants awarded by the USDA for a total of \$372,380. Pakistani scientists will test the possibility of using a pathogen to control water hyacinth. They will extract a toxin produced by the organism that causes water hyacinth blight, *Alternaria eichorniae*, establish its chemical structure, design a control program for its use and determine its effect on the total aquatic environment.

A two-volume study on the relationship between wildlife and the highway environment sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration is available. Highway-Wildlife Relationships focuses on past efforts and future needs for establishing and preserving wildlife habitats along the 20 million plus acres devoted to highway rights-of-way. Copies of reports FHWA-RD-79-4 and 5 can be obtained from the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, Va. 22161.

Agricultural representatives of the U. S., Mexico and Canada have signed the North American Plant Protection Agreement to unify efforts to solve "continental" pest problems. Formalizing working relations among Mexican, American and Canadian plant protection agencies, the agreement also gives legal authority to programs, standards and regulations adopted for pest control throughout North America, allows anti-pest programs to be merged when necessary and makes regulations governing such procedures as international garbage disposal and importation of used farm equipment more uniform.

A new microbial pesticide for tussock moth control has been approved by EPA. The natural occurring virus is devastating against the tussock moth but is otherwise apparently harmless. The moth is the ancient scourge of the Douglas-fir forests of the Pacific Northwest.