

## Government News

Under a \$91,773 trust fund cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the U.S.D.A. will evaluate new chemicals and techniques to control Hydrilla and other aquatic weeds.

Hydrilla verticillata Royle, a pest weed widespread in Florida and beginning to appear in other sections of the U.S., is a noxious submerged weed that chokes ponds, lakes, streams, and canals. It interferes with drainage for flood control, the use of water for irrigated agriculture, and it seriously restricts the use of water for navigation, wildlife, and recreation.

James Varley & Sons Inc., a St. Louis, Mo. firm, was slapped with a \$7,500 civil penalty by EPA in a Region VII pesticide enforcement action. EPA alleged several products the company was distributing--Varco Restaurant Disinfectant and Sanitizer, Creme Cote Multi-Purpose Cleaner, and Mint Odor Wincide Disinfectant--were misbranded.

In another pesticide enforcement action, EPA assessed a \$480 penalty against Parkway Research Corp., of Miami, Fla., for shipping Instant Kill and Grass Tox. The products were not registered, EPA officials claimed.

According to the findings of researchers at Ohio State University, Department of Plant Pathology, only 19 percent of ornamental plant diseases can be treated with products currently registered. Of 296 ornamental plant diseases, 23 percent of the registrations for the diseases were available "through some sort of grouped or lumped labeling that does not specifically mention the host, the pathogen, or both. Thirty-nine percent of the hosts listed are not specifically mentioned on any of the 681 registrations for any of the 296 diseases listed."

The study concluded that pesticide manufacturers need the grouped labeling method to avoid liabilities and prohibitive costs inherent in developing specialty products. The researchers urged public subsidy insurance programs to help manufacturers.

The U.S.D.A. has moved to give plant seed developers filing for patent-type protection in a foreign country an additional year to file for parent protection in the United States.

Amendments to the Plant Variety Protection Act will also make regulations more uniform for abandoned or lapsed applications and eliminate delays caused by collecting seed samples and fees separately. The five-year grace period granted to foreign developers to file for parent protection in the U.S. is in keeping with policies of other countries who administer "grow out" tests to evaluate new plant varieties.