

Government News

Applicator certification plans have been approved for the Department of Defense, Iowa, and Texas. The DOD plan designates the Armed Forces Pest Control Board as the lead agency responsible for the program's development, implementation, and coordination.

The Texas plan was approved in spite of a legislative adjournment without meeting the proposed legislative contingencies. The Texas Department of Agriculture, however, proposed an alternative regulatory approach that met with the approval of the EPA Regional Administrator.

The Iowa plan was published in the Federal Register, along with a list of some amendments to the proposed plan. The EPA notice said that the amendments serve only to clarify and do not substantially alter the intent or operation of the Iowa program.

Section five experimental use permits issued included one to Elanco Products allowing use of 5,490 pounds of tebuthiuron to evaluate control of wood plants in non-crop area, such as railroad rights of way, utility rights of way, industrial sites, pipelines, and along highways.

A permit was issued to J. J. Mauget Co. allowing use of 90 pounds of 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl-1-1-2-benzimidazole carbamate on 11,649 trees to control certain fungus diseases of ornamental trees. The permit expires Oct. 3, 1979.

A permit was also issued to Velsicol Chemical Corp. allowing use of approximately 6,305 pounds of 3-(5-(1, 1-dimethylethyl)-1,2,3-(thiadiazol-2-yl)-4-hydroxy-1-methyl-2-imidazolidinone and related compounds on rights of way, fencerows, industrial sites, wasteland, and similar non-cropland to evaluate control of certain annual and perennial weeds and grasses. The permit is effective until Aug. 26, 1978.

The EPA is planning to issue a notice of rebuttable presumption against registration (RPAR) of thiophanate-methyl, based on mutagenicity of the pesticides' major plant metabolite, methyl 2-benzimidazole carbamate (MBC) and on the conclusion that thiophanate-methyl pesticides registered for outdoor use "can reasonably be expected to result in significant local reductions of earthworm populations". The draft document requested comment on the relevance, impact and long-term significance of local earthworm population reductions.

Pennwalt was noted as the only registered producer of technical grade thiophanate-methyl in the U.S. and its only registered uses are on turf and ornamentals.