

EPTC in starch form is more persistent

Losses of the herbicide EPTC in or on the soil surface can be greatly reduced when used in a new starch encapsulated form, research at Purdue University shows. EPTC (S-ethyl dipropylthiocarbamate) is used to control many grass and broadleaf weeds.

Findings in the study, which sought to establish the effectiveness and persistence of the starch form of EPTC, were presented recently by Dr. Marvin M. Schreiber, Agricultural Research Service-U.S.D.A. plant physiologist at Purdue.

Speaking to the North Central

Weed Control Conference, Dr. Schreiber pointed out that EPTC has some drawbacks in the emulsifiable concentrate (EC) liquid form.

"Because of its volatility in the liquid form, EPTC must be immediately incorporated into the soil after application," says Schreiber. "Furthermore, it is readily lost if applied to wet soil surfaces or if the soil becomes wet immediately after its application."

Research at Purdue demonstrated that EPTC in double starch encapsulated granules was six times as effective as an equivalent amount

of the liquid form and three times as effective as twice as much of the emulsifiable concentrate, when applied three pounds to the acre.

The plant physiologist noted that excellent control of all vegetation (in the experimental plots) was obtained 105 days after treatment, using six pounds per acre of the double starch form.

Schreiber concluded that "the effectiveness and persistence of this new formulation may be extremely valuable in treatment for weeds that germinate over extended periods of time."

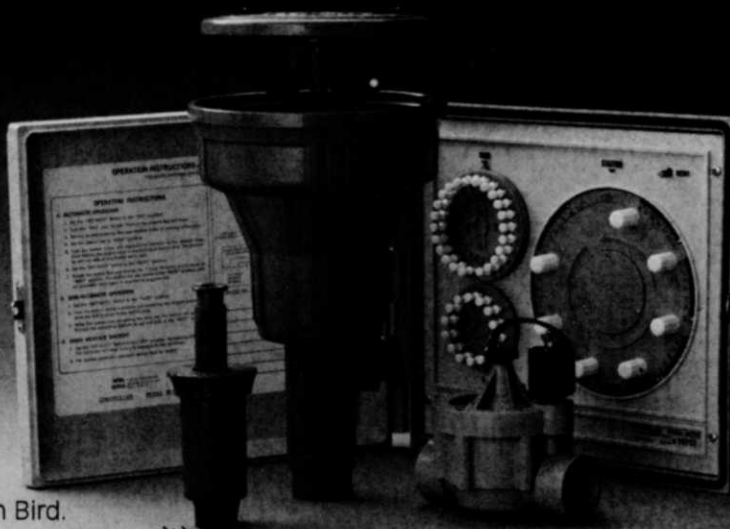
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