

UPDATE

Second member of cancer group quits

Dr. I. N. Dubin, professor of pathology at The Medical College of Pennsylvania, resigned his position on the Environmental Protection Agency's Carcinogen Assessment Group complaining of CAG's chairman's lack of respect for research findings and interpretations. Dubin was the second member of CAG to resign for this reason.

Cases mentioned by Dubin evidence that Endrin did not cause cancer in an FDA study which CAG Chairman Albert disagreed, and a case with tests for carcinogenicity of Dimilin.

Dubin said Albert's knowledge of pathology, "is so meager that he does not understand the general principles or what goes into making a histopathologic diagnosis."

Lignasan effectiveness questioned

A chemical registered for use against Dutch elm disease was ineffective in reducing disease development when used at recommended rates in tests at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Nursery Crops Research Laboratory, Delaware, Ohio.

Dr. Lawrence R. Schreiber, plant pathologist and research leader, told the American Phytopathological Society here today that he tested the chemical, Lignasan BLP, on elm trees inoculated with two strains of Dutch elm disease.

One fungus strain had been developed that was tolerant to the chemical, and the other strain was sensitive to it. Neither strain was inhibited when the chemical was injected into diseased trees at the recommended dosage. When the dosage was increased to five times the recommended rate the sensitive fungus strain was inhibited, but the tolerant strain was not.

"These research results must be given serious consideration when Lignasan BLP treatment is considered," Schreiber said.

Aquatic weed research agreement signed

A new Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in conducting research programs for the control of aquatic weeds in reservoirs, irrigation canals, and drains was signed recently by three federal agencies: the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Science and Education Administration. The first two are part of the Department of the Interior; the latter, the Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture and Interior agencies have had cooperative research agreements on specific weed control studies since 1947, but the new agreement is broader and will enable the three agencies to conduct studies on problems of mutual interest.

Since enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, it has been increasingly difficult to develop aquatic weed control technology that meets the safety standards of the three cooperating agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary concerns expressed by agency officials were assistance to irrigators and other agricultural interests, protection of the environment, and efficient research to develop improved management systems to accomplish those objectives.

EPA grants expanded carbaryl label

One-gallon jugs of Sevimol 4 carbaryl insecticide, product of Union Carbide's Agricultural Products Division, have been granted an expanded registration by the Environmental Protection Agency. Shade trees and ornamentals have been added to the registration, along with cotton and certain vegetables and forage and field crops. Registration for the gallon size previously was limited to tobacco pest control.

research projects being conducted. Comparisons of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, irrigation systems, seed varieties and soil types were made by Tech faculty members.

A major highlight at the research stops was an experimental sub-irrigation golf putting green. The green is constructed like a conventional U.S. Golf Association green, except for the addition of water emitters installed on top of the gravel layer. Water is fed through the emitters and the moisture is distributed by capillary action.

"This system appears to be a promising method of supplying water uniformly to turf areas without having to saturate the surface soil, and of reducing soil aeration," John F. Shoulders, Virginia Tech Extension specialist in turf, said.

TURF

Florida turf managers explore coming era

A broad and varied program of educational seminars and an exhibit area filled with 86 suppliers of seed, chemicals, and equipment drew 750 turf managers to the 26th annual conference and show of the Florida Turf-Grass Association in Orlando recently.

Dr. James B. Beard, professor of turfgrass physiology at Texas A&M University, discussed the university's turfgrass current research projects in his keynote address. "We're still a very young science in turfgrass," he noted, "but we're coming."

Research programs such as the one at Texas A&M are producing much valuable information on turfgrass science, but are not cheap. Dr. Beard outlined the costs of his university's 3-year-old program and came up with a total expenditure of \$686,000. That figure includes the value of much irrigation and laboratory equipment donated by manufacturers, as well as a building, a greenhouse, test plots, stress physiology laboratory, and other equipment.

"I see a new era on the horizon. EPA has weeded out the retired colonels and liberal arts graduates who were interpreting chemical labels they couldn't even read," said Dr. Richard L. Lipsey, pesticide chemical coordinator at the University of Florida during his talk on turf pesticides.