

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

DuPont will fight for EBDC fungicides

E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company is attempting to rebut the EPA's notice of rebuttable presumption against registration (RPAR) of the EBDC (ethylenebisdithiocarbamate) fungicides. These fungicides include Dithane, Maneb, and Zineb, among others.

DuPont said that tests relied upon by the EPA in assessing the cancer risk of EBDC fungicides are inadequate. There is also evidence that neither EBDC or its metabolite, ethylenethiourea concentrate, will accrue or persist in man or environment in levels likely to cause chronic adverse effects, said duPont.

CAST says EPA is unrealistic

A report has been issued by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) accusing EPA of attempting "to blur the distinction between tumors and cancers."

EPA, according to the report, "misrepresents" the Delaney amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act "as applying to tumors, whereas the clause refers specifically and explicitly to cancers".

CAST further states that, "because most tumors are not cancers and do not become cancers, the EPA endeavor to blur the distinction between them is scientifically questionable".

The report contends that EPA has developed a policy which holds that even small exposures to carcinogens convey a risk of cancer and if EPA is allowed to implement that policy, the U.S. will be trapped into bans on substances whose carcinogenic potential is actually very small.

The report claims that testing for potential carcinogens by using high doses can be unrealistic and remarks that the "physiological action of at least some substances is different at large doses than it is in small doses".

Several EPA staff members dismissed the report as propaganda.

Copies are available from CAST, Agronomy Building, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

GAO to review EPA

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has begun a review of federal agencies', including EPA's, chemical testing programs. The review was requested by Senators Kennedy (D-Mass.), Chairman, and Javits (R-N.Y.), Ranking Minority member, of the Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, Senate Committee on Human Resources.

The GAO is requesting information such as: type of test; cost of testing each chemical between fiscal 1976 and 78; methods used to select chemicals for testing; policy statements or regulations for assessing risks to humans of the chemicals; test coordinating procedures with other agencies; and the adequacy and expertise of personnel managing the chemical testing programs.

HORTICULTURE

Fourteen \$500 grants available for research

The Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) has announced that it will have 14 Richard P. White \$500 Research Grants available for the coming year. Awarded annually, the grants are used for purchasing supplies and equipment for important nursery research projects.

The HRI invites any organization conducting research which may be of benefit to the nursery industry, including state and federal research laboratories, land grant universities, forest research stations, botanical gardens and arboreta, to apply for one of the grants.

Recipients are selected on the basis of information provided on a simple one page application. "The only strings attached to the \$500 grants are that the money must be used to purchase supplies or equipment and that a report on the progress and/or results of the work be made available to HRI so that we can pass it along to the industry," according to HRI President Jim Walsh.

Applications for the grants are available from the Horticultural Research Institute, 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005, and must be received by May 1, 1978.

NURSERY

Credit card risky as payment in advance

A retail nurseryman who accepted a credit card as payment in advance for a special order lost out when the customer rejected the order after the plants, which required special digging, were dug and set aside for him.

The nurseryman accepted a bank credit card for the order, in excess of \$200. When the order was cancelled, the customer's bank charged back to the nurseryman the full amount of the purchase. The nursery owner's efforts to resolve the problem through his own bank failed.

American Association of Nurserymen lawyers wrote to the owner's bank in an attempt to obtain information to advise businessmen concerning the possible risks of accepting credit cards in such cases.

"Based on the bank's response,"

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