

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Heptachlor/Chlordane Hearing To Close

The heptachlor/chlordane case is in its last stages after almost two years of hearings. A final decision by EPA Chief Administrative Law Judge Herbert L. Perlman will be due about the first week in February, 1978. EPA and Velsicol lawyers, meanwhile, are debating over some type of settlement agreement.

Officials were not optimistic about a settlement, but noted that the briefing schedule would be followed, regardless. Indications are that EPA and Velsicol will continue to try and work out some type of settlement even after their initial briefs are filed.

Some EPA officials seem to envision a settlement with some major uses, such as on corn, being continued for a while and then phased out. Because of the greater complexity of the heptachlor/chlordane controversy and the number of uses involved, many observers do not foresee a settlement.

Cadmium Extended, Benomyl RPAR Issued

A rebuttable presumption against registration against cadmium was extended to February 10. This RPAR effects 35 turf chemicals.

An RPAR against benomyl, a systematic fungicide used on turf and ornamentals, was noted in the December 6th Federal Register.

Additional chemicals that have been designated for pre-RPAR reviews include: Dimilin, a gypsy moth insecticide; Telone, a soil fumigant and phosphorus paste, used in insecticides and rodenticides.

Du Pont Will Rebut EPA RPAR on Benomyl

The Du Pont Company has announced intentions to rebut the EPA notice concerning presumption against their product "Benlate" benomyl fungicide. Results from extensive scientific tests and from years of world-wide field use show that use of "Benlate" to protect food crops does not represent a risk to man or the environment, according to the company.

Grower, fieldman, and investigator comments and views on benefits of "Benlate" have been requested and will be of special interest to the EPA. Letters to the EPA should include specific information on crops and acreages treated, disease control experienced, benefits observed in terms of improved yield or improved quality, plus facts on previous (or alternate) ways to handle disease problems in various crops and economic value of crops protected.

Letters should be sent in triplicate to: EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs, Federal Register Section (WH-569), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Letters should also carry the notation OPP-30000/23 for correct identification with the RPAR notice on "Benlate."

Pennwalt Issued Experimental Use Permit

An experimental use permit has been issued to Pennwalt which allows use of approximately 5,114 pounds of an insecticide mixture of O,O-diethyl-O-(2-isopropyl-6-methyl-4-pyrimidinyl) phosphorotioate and aromatic petroleum solvent to evaluate control of insect varieties in residential, industrial, food processing and business sites, and on ornamental trees, shrubs and turf. The permit expires Oct. 14, 1978.

NEWS

NURSERY

AAN forms council for national promotion

The Nursery Marketing Council is the most recent addition to the activities of the American Association of Nurserymen. The council has been established to supply the nursery industry with professional market research and analysis and the resulting advertising and public relations to increase the sale of plant material and related products.

Forty-seven firms have agreed to participate so far. Each of the wholesale nursery growers will add ¼ of 1% of value of plant material to all invoices under Nursery Marketing Council Contribution. If the customer honors this voluntary contribution, the grower will match it and forward the total to the NMC.

The NMC is managed by the staff of the AAN and supervised by its marketing Committee with ultimate authority resting in the Board of Directors.

J. Frank Schmidt, Jr., whose wholesale nursery operation is headquartered in Boring, Ore., is the first industry executive to take on a leadership role in the NMC. His assignment is to establish a committee responsible for enlisting early endorsement and support from a number of major wholesale growers nationwide. Schmidt hopes to build a \$100,000 to \$200,000 fund the first year to support NMC market research and the resulting consumer advertising.

Ketchum, MacLeod & Grove, a 54-year-old marketing organization, which ranks 23rd among all U.S. agencies in billing volume, has been selected as the national advertising agency which will provide the consumer research and marketing services planned for the all-industry program of NMC.

TURF

Ohio research center to build rhizotron

The first turfgrass rhizotron is being constructed at turfgrass research plots maintained cooperatively by OARDC and Ohio State

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