

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

President wants EPA's budget increased

The Carter administration has asked Congress to approve \$60.7 million in fiscal 1979 for the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide programs, a \$13.7 million increase which reflects a change in review priorities by the agency, said Robert Wayland, EPA's lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

"We'll direct more of our resources toward the re-registration program," Wayland said, referring to the program where government investigators will review all chemicals approved by the federal government before 1972. Wayland said this period includes "almost all pesticides (now used); virtually the universe" and estimated that 50,000 chemical products would be affected.

He said that preliminary tests already conducted by the agency show that 150 of the 1,500 active ingredients known to make-up chemical products are suspected to cause serious health or environmental hazards. The agency will conduct further tests on the ingredients, including Toxifine, the most widely used ingredient, to determine the safety of all chemical products.

The investigation will also cover the 4,000 pesticides that leave residue on organisms after application, testing for safe tolerance levels.

Wayland said that many pesticides used now had "very minimal testing" before they were allowed to be sold. He estimated that it costs some companies about \$5 million today to test its potential products to meet federal government standards.

Besides the re-registration program, the Carter administration also hopes its additional funds for pesticide programs will expedite the registration of 8,500 new products.

The administration has also asked that \$9.5 million be given to the Pesticides and Toxic Substances Enforcement Division so that group can expand its state enforcement grant program. The EPA notes that the states will assume many of the enforcement functions now under federal supervision in 1979.

EPA administrator Douglas Costle indicated that the Carter requests will improve the agency's aim to provide a cleaner and safer environment. "Our budget request for 1979 is a dramatic reversal of the last six years' inadequate support for the protection of the environment," he said.

State registration questioned by GAO

A General Accounting Office report has found that some states have misused their pesticide registration authority by registering pesticides which had previously been suspended or canceled by the Environmental Protection Agency, those that required food tolerance levels not yet set by EPA, and others that EPA feels can cause unreasonable environmental effects or just don't perform well.

The report said these violations of FIFRA occurred because some states intentionally misused their authority or that EPA certified states that are incapable of following the law.

The report, requested by Senators Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) members of the Senate subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, concluded that states should not be able to register pesticides not approved by the EPA. It also said violators should be fined or their registration authority suspended.

Although the House of Representatives has voted to allow states to determine pesticides for special local needs, GAO recommends that EPA maintain its review authority and also work to uncover those pesticides used which have not been approved at the federal level.

TURF

Musser Foundation takes funding action

The Musser International Turf-grass Foundation voted to hire a professional estate planner/fund gatherer at its meeting during the GCSAA Conference in San Antonio, Tx.

William Lyons will be in charge of the fund raising effort which is financed by a \$1,000 grant from board member Hugh Chronister representing Harvest Publishing Co.

The Musser Foundation gives financial grants to turf students. One grant to an Ohio student has resulted in a major discovery of the life cycle of the extremely destructive *Ataenius* beetle.

The Foundation, under the direction of Dr. Fred Grau, wants to expand its scholarship work by broadening its financial base through memorial contributions and gifts.

REGULATION

EPA announces restricted list

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has announced its official list of restricted use pesticides — those that can legally be used only by certified applicators.

Of the 23 pesticide ingredients on the restricted-use list, none are used extensively in turf, but some are used in tree and ornamental work. They are:

Aldicarb, marketed by Union Carbide Corp., San Francisco, under the trade name Temik for insect control on ornamentals.

Allyl alcohol, marketed by Don Chemical Co., Midland, Mich. for use on nursery seed beds.

Azinophos methyl, marketed under the trade name Guthion by Chemagro, Kansas City, Mo. for insect control on ornamentals and shade trees.

Demeton, marketed by Chemagro under the trade name Systox for control of aphids and mites on ornamentals.

Methomyl, an insecticide for ornamental use marketed as Lannate by DuPont Co., Wilmington, Del. and

Continued on page 103