

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

### EPA changes registration policy

The Environmental Protection Agency is departing from past policies to speed up the availability of so-called "biorational" pesticides that control crop-destroying insects and other pests through natural means, says Steven D. Jellinek, assistant administrator for toxic substances.

He defines "biorational" pesticides as viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and certain naturally occurring biochemicals that either attract, retard, or destroy pests. These pesticides, Jellinek says, should be easier to register than conventional chemical pesticides, which are inherently toxic.

Jellinek made the announcement at the opening of a new plant in Wasco, Calif., which will produce an insect virus lethal to cotton pests but harmless to people and the environment.

### Virus causes walnut tree disease

A U.S. Dept. of Agriculture plant pathologist has discovered a virus that produces blackline disease in English walnut trees.

The discovery, by Srecko M. Mircetich of USDA's Science and Education Administration-Agricultural Research, Davis, could save the annual \$200 million walnut industry.

Blackline gets its name because it attacks and kills cells at the union of the rootstock and the scion resulting in a black line girdling the tree at that point. Once the disease is in a walnut tree, the tree may die within three to six years.

forcing them to grow continuously without rest. This results in stress and increased susceptibility to air pollution. Night lighting also delays fall dormancy exposing late fall growth to frost damage. Death is not a result of night lighting.

Cathey says the trend to more efficient lighting should considerably reduce the stress on trees.

Hollies, rhododendron, linden, and most maples are moderately sensitive to night lighting. Oaks, evergreens and many fruit trees are insensitive. Cathey tested 54 trees and shrubs.

Cathey adds that light is only one of many urban stresses on trees, but that it should be a consideration for selecting plants for brightly lit areas.

### HERBICIDES

#### Banvel herbicides get new registrations

Banvel herbicide and Banvel combinations have recently received several new label registrations from the EPA, announced Velsicol Chemical Corp.

Federal clearances include:

Weedmaster herbicide, a pre-mix combination of 1 lb. dicamba and 3 lb. 2,4-D per gal., is cleared for control of broadleaf weeds in pasture and rangeland grasses and in noncropland areas such as fence rows, roadways, and around farm buildings. Apply when weeds are actively growing at rates ranging from 1 pint to 2 qt. acre.

Banvel herbicide is cleared for control of musk thistle in pastures and noncropland areas at a rate of 1 to 2 pints/acre in 10 to 20 gal. of diluted spray, applied when the musk thistle is actively growing.

Banvel is approved for control of multiflora rose in pastures and noncropland areas at a rate of 1 gal. of Banvel in 99 gal. of water. Use 100 to 200 gal. of solution per acre.

MonDak, a pre-mix combination of dicamba and MCPA, is cleared for grass seed production in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Use 1½ pints MonDak on early seeding weeds (4 in. or less in height) after winter dormancy up to the early boot stage of the grass. Applications can be made to lawn-type fescues, perennial ryegrasses, and Kentucky bluegrass.

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