

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

### Pronamide benefits exceed risks

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed that uses of the pesticide pronamide be allowed to continue as currently used on turf, commercial nursery plantings, and a number of agricultural products, but with additional precautions to reduce potential risks to human health.

Pronamide has been used in the United States since 1969 under the trade name KERB, primarily manufactured by Rohm & Haas, Philadelphia, Pa. The EPA decided to review the safety of the pesticide after research indicated pronamide caused cancer in mice.

"In general, EPA has concluded that for all uses the economic benefits of pronamide outweigh its risks," Steven D. Jellinek, EPA assistant administrator, said.

Pronamide is used primarily to control weeds which compete with lettuce and alfalfa. It is also used to a lesser extent for weed control in turf and commercial nursery plantings.

EPA's proposal is not a final action. The proposal will be reviewed by EPA's Scientific Advisory Panel, the Department of Agriculture, pronamide registrants, environmental groups, and other interested parties. EPA will consider their comments in making a final decision.

### Integrated pest management ten years away

A committee formed to evaluate steps toward integrated pest management will report to Congress that such measures will require considerable research, millions of dollars, and at least ten years.

The chairman of the committee, Auburn University's Dennis Rouse, said an inadequate base of information on pests and agricultural products, no way to deliver such information, and a lack of participation by manufacturers in integrated pest management research, have contributed to the committee's findings.

Rouse and his group recommended doubling the current support for research on IPM at land-grant colleges and encouragement of further research by the extension service and other organizations. The cost of such a plan was estimated at \$150 million.

### NURSERY

#### Disease of carnations causes emergency ban

A virus disease which attacks carnations has been discovered for the first time in the United States in Colorado and California and may spread further, according to a United States Department of Agriculture spokesman.

The virus, carnation necrotic fleck, was previously known to exist in Japan, Israel, and Italy. An emergency ban on carnation shipments has been placed on two known infected commercial greenhouses near Denver, Colo. and near Salinas, Calif., according to James O. Lee, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The ban covers only infected carnations used for propagation and not cut flowers.

Officials in major carnation-growing states are surveying how ex-

tensively the disease has spread, but it will take considerable time to determine the extent of the outbreak because each sample must be identified individually with an electron microscope.

Disease symptoms include grayish white spots on leaves during the initial stages of infection and a reddish/purple discoloration of the leaves as the disease worsens. Some infected plants may show no visible symptoms, but act as carriers that help spread the disease.

The infection can be spread by cuttings made for propagation and by the green peach aphid, a common greenhouse pest.

### FERTILIZER

#### Grace buys Peters, expands nutrient line

W. R. Grace & Co. has purchased, for an undisclosed price, the Robert

B. Peters Co., of Allentown, Pa., manufacturers of pre-mixed, water-soluble nutrients for professional growers.

Operations will continue under the supervision of Robert B. Peters, founder of the company in 1952.

The company also announced that specialty nutrients will be marketed as part of the established Grace horticultural product line and will retain the Peters brand identity.

### TREES

#### New York arborists honor Clarence Lewis

The New York State Arborists Association recently elected a number of new officials and presented several awards at their annual convention in Ellenville, NY.

Leo G. Cook, of Goodell Tree Service, Vestal, NY, was reelected president, Raymond M. Smith, of Davey Tree Expert Co., Tonawanda, NY, was selected first vice-president, and Jon Hickey, of Parr & Hanson, Hicksville, NY, was elected second vice-president. Edgar A. Dahlgren, of Davey Tree Expert Co., Latham, NY, was selected third vice-president at the proceedings.

Also at the convention, Clarence Lewis, a longtime educator in New York, was presented the NYSAA Achievement Award for his work in education and training in the horticultural profession.

Palmer Starner, past president of the NYSAA and charter member of the organization, was presented the Award of Merit for his outstanding service to the association.

### NURSERY

#### Ohio arboretum plans unveiled by nurserymen

Plans were unveiled for the Chadwick Arboretum during the 1979 Ohio Nurserymen's Association annual January convention. The arboretum will be located in Inniswood Gardens in a very picturesque setting consisting of 97 acres in the north-east section of Columbus, Ohio.

The Chadwick Arboretum began as a tribute to "Chad" by the Kiwanis Club of Northern Columbus. The arboretum concept has been warmly received by the American Nurserymen's Association, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Ohio

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