

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

### **EPA asks producers for more data on 2,4-D**

The Environmental Protection Agency wants manufacturers of 2,4-D to submit additional evidence that the herbicide is not a health hazard.

The agency has not claimed 2,4-D is unsafe, but feels that studies done on its potential to cause cancer are inconclusive and other studies are out-of-date, a spokesman said.

Since about 70 million pounds of the herbicide are used on lawns, forests, right-of-ways, ditch banks, aquatic and other turf areas, the agency said it wanted to be positive of its safety. It has recently received reports from communities around the country who fear the herbicide has possibly caused miscarriages in pregnant women.

Barbara Blum, deputy administrator of the EPA, said that if the manufacturers fail to notify EPA within 90 days that they will provide the necessary information, EPA will use a stringent new provision of the pesticide law, which allows the agency to stop all uses of the pesticide.

If the manufacturers comply, Blum said, EPA will allow 2,4-D to continue to be used while studies are underway. However, should any of the new studies demonstrate a major health or environmental problem, she said EPA would then take appropriate regulatory action without waiting for completion of all the studies.

### **President urges limit on chemical prices**

President Carter has personally prodded officials of chemical manufacturing firms to restrain price rises.

After the White House meeting, Secretary of the Treasury G. William Miller outlined the administration's inflation control program concerning monetary reform, wage-price guidelines, and environmental policy. Industry officials agreed with Miller that the steady increase of prices is an accumulative effect over the last 15 years, and responded that a solution may take the same amount of time.

The chemical companies blamed the rise in prices on the climbing cost of petroleum, which is used for feed stock, and excessive federal regulations. A spokesman for Dow said that the company's costs for feed stocks and energy rose 39 percent last year and are expected to increase at about the same rate in 1980.

### **Forest Service centralizes pest management**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has consolidated its pest management activities to improve its use of integrated pest management against pest insects, animals, diseases, and plants.

M. Rupert Cutler, assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment, said the centralization places technical assistance responsibilities for pest management and animal damage control in a single group, which will be known as the Forest Pest Management Staff. The group will also have responsibility for providing technical advice and assistance in the use of forest herbicides. In the past, several staff groups handled these responsibilities.

The new staff group, to be directed by James L. Stewart, will maintain all of the Forest Service's current insect and disease control functions.

Topics will include the effects of acid rain, watershed management, developing lake protection programs, approaches to lake restoration, and benefits of lake restoration and protection programs.

Interested persons should contact Dr. Ann Clarke, AWARE Inc., P.O. Box 40284, Nashville, TN 37204 (615/794-0110).

### PARKS

#### **U.S. Park Service gets a new boss**

Russell E. Dickenson, a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service, has been picked to head the agency.

Dickenson replaces William J. Whalen, who was fired by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus after a stormy three years in which Whalen came under attack from House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, (D-AZ), conservation groups, and park service employees complaining of low morale.

Dickenson, 57, joined the park service in 1947 as a park ranger in the Grand Canyon. He was deputy director from 1973 to 1975 and since that time has been director of the service's Pacific Northwest Region.

### NURSERY

#### **U.S. garden display is part of Montreal show**

The American Association of Nurserymen and several branches of the U.S. government have joined together for the creation of a two-and-a-half acre garden to be part of the Les Florales internationales de Montreal which begins in May. The display will contain more than 200 trees of 36 types, 2,600 shrubs of 30 types, and 21,500 perennials, wildflowers, ferns and grasses of 24 types.

The U.S. is among 30 nations participating in the event. Displays will be maintained as a permanent park after the show ends in September.

The Florales internationales begins May 17 at the site of the 1967 Exposition and Olympics in Montreal, and ends September 1.

The display has been named the

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