

UPDATE

EPA registration holdup lags

At presstime, there still is no decision from the Supreme Court on the Monsanto/EPA data compensation case. This one case, heard months ago by the Court, is slowing registration of new uses and pesticides.

Chemical companies are not satisfied with the way EPA law judges have been figuring compensation from "me-to" registrants to data originators. EPA has told the Court data submitted for registration purposes becomes the property of EPA and not the applicant. Meanwhile, registration applications based upon data developed by companies other than the applicant, are frozen and some previous "me-to" registrations are being nullified.

Chemical companies want protection for the years and millions of dollars they spend to get a chemical to market. One ray of hope is a bill by Representative Michael Glickman (R-OH) which, if passed, could add five more years of patent protection for chemicals. This will make up for patent years lost in the EPA registration process and is supported by the National Agricultural Chemicals Association.

Groundwater causes new testing

Concern over groundwater contamination is the reason EPA asked recently for additional data on 84 pesticides, including many landscape herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

Chemical companies without this data, may have to perform up to eight additional tests to keep their products registered.

Environmentalists are pushing EPA to fill gaps in pesticide data. EPA Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances Dr. John Moore expects nearly ten percent of the pesticides needing more data will be voluntarily cancelled.

Moore said products with poor groundwater test results will face geographic restrictions and companies failing to supply the new data will find it hard to obtain registration for new uses.

Local pesticide regs get bounced

Some local pesticide laws are being struck down in Court on the basis pesticide regulation is limited to state and Federal agencies.

The Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (3PF) has revealed laws in Brooklyn, NY, requiring application permits, and in Mendocino County, CA, banning aerial applications, were struck down by Appellate Courts.

These early rulings will set precedent for future decisions. 3PF, which keeps track of pesticide legislation nationwide, believes local agencies are too political and only state and Federal agencies are empowered to regulate pesticides. Those confronted with pesticide regulatory problems can contact 3PF by calling 1-800-GET-PPPF.

nian Institute in Washington, D.C.

It took the company 14 years to reach the half-million milestone on Jan. 12, 1977, but only seven years to build the next half million tractors to reach the one million mark this year.

Mark Rostvold, director of consumer products marketing at John



Deere, said the rapid increase in production numbers results from several trends.

"We're designing more kinds of mowing equipment today to provide greater versatility and a wider selection of features and prices. In the late 1970s we offered only one model lawn tractor for example, while today we have seven.

Raymond E. Gregg Jr., general manager of the Horicon Works, said that the factory has grown with increasing sales.

"Plant area has increased by 81 percent and average yearly employment has more than doubled over the years. The Horicon Works has become one of the most profitable factories in the John Deere system, while becoming the largest manufacturer of lawn and garden tractors in the world."

TREES

Arboretum curator retires from Secrest

John E. Ford, curator of the Secrest Arboretum, Wooster, OH, retired in February.

Ford remains an active member of a number of professional organizations. These include the Society of American Foresters, American Horticulture Society, American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, Ecological Society of America, Holly Society of America, and National Audubon Society.

In 1976, Ford was one of the 200 U.S. citizens selected by the Royal Horticultural Society of England to receive a Fellowship in the Society in honor of the American Bicentennial. Those selected were eminent horticulturists, botanists or representatives of leading American horticultural institutions or organizations.