

INSECTICIDES

EPA proposes diazinon ban

The death of 546 Atlantic Brant geese at a Long Island golf course (see WT&T, Aug., 1984) has been cited as partial reason for a ban on golf course use of diazinon insecticide recently proposed by the EPA.

Steven Schatzow, EPA director, said that the agency was changing its policy to encompass not only public but wildlife health, according to a story in the *New York Times*.

Schatzow noted 60 different reports of geese, ducks, herons and pheasants which had died in large numbers on golf courses and turf farms treated with diazinon.

Waterfowl is attracted to open, grassy feeding sites of golf courses and turf farms because they can easily be seen from the air.

But there is also some concern about diazinon use on lawns, recreational areas and parks.

In its position document, the EPA further stated that it "wants to emphasize that the concern is not limited to golf courses and sod farms. The agency does not have sufficient data to evaluate all of the sites, but will require such data. Pending review...the agency may or may not initiate a special review."

Ciba Geigy Corp., the major pro-



ducer of diazinon, is standing behind its product.

"It can be used safely with the proper procedures, one of which is watering it in properly," says Bob Clark of Ciba-Geigy. "We will be meeting with the EPA's Scientific Advisory Panel, probably in April, to present our case."

"This is not just a monetary matter—only 5-8 percent of the total use of diazinon is by golf courses and sod farms—but we strongly feel that our data supports use of the chemical," Clark concludes.

CHEMICALS

EPA wants MCPP research data

The Environmental Protection Agency has called for the suspension of the manufacturing of mecoprop (MCP), a widely-used postemergence broadleaf herbicide. The EPA wants more data.

EPA has issued notices of intent to suspend to some registrants of MCP for noncompliance with data call-in requirements. It has also done the same with a registrant of maneb, a turf fungicide.

The EPA sent suspension notices to the following MCP registrants: Germain, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif.; Arco, Inc., Irwin, Pa.; Hysan Corporation, Chicago; Estech, Inc., Chicago; Koos, Inc., Kenosha, Wis.; and NCH Corporation, Irvin, Texas.

A similar notice was sent to Agchem Division, Pennwalt Corporation, Philadelphia, to suspend production of maneb.

EVENTS

Landscape Expo to kick off on Mar. 5

The 1986 Landscape Expo will open its doors on March 5 at the Valley Forge (Pa.) Convention Center.

The convention, which expects about 6,000 visitors, is being staged by HBJ Conventions and Expositions. It is co-sponsored by WEEDS TREES & TURF and LAWN CARE INDUSTRY magazines, both HBJ publications.

Registration will be available at the door.

NYSTA
president Jack Sloane (right) salutes Citation of Merit winner Melvin Lucas.



ASSOCIATIONS

New Yorkers present merit citation to Lucas

The New York State Turfgrass Association presented its Citation of Merit to Melvin Lucas, Jr. during the group's turfgrass conference and tradeshow in Syracuse.

Lucas, golf course superintendent at Round Hills near New Bedford, Mass., has served as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the NYSTA, and the Long Island Golf Course Superinten-

dents Association.

The NYSTA elected new officers during the conference. They are: Jack Sloane, Oakwood Morningside Cemetery, Syracuse, president; William Stark III, Bellevue Country Club, Syracuse, vice president; and Steve Smith, I & E Supply, Montgomery, N.Y., treasurer.

Newly elected members to the board of directors include J.R. Brun-

dage, Brundage Lawn Maintenance, Medina, N.Y.; Tom Charnock, Brookfield Country Club, Clarence, N.Y.; Jim Girard, Jim Girard Landscaping, Glen Falls, N.Y.; and Rick McGuinness, Woodmere Club, Woodmere, N.Y.

The NYSTA, with 850 members, is one of the largest state turfgrass associations in the country.

TREES

Researchers getting to root of chestnut blight problems

It may not be too long before you can once again roast chestnuts on an open fire.

Scientists at Michigan State University may have discovered a cure for the chestnut blight which has killed off most American chestnut trees.

The researchers have found a naturally-occurring virus which can infect the fungus that causes the blight. The virus makes the fungus harmless, allowing the surviving chestnut roots to send up healthy shoots, which eventually grow into trees.

Although similar viruses have recently been found in chestnut trees, this is the first time scientists have succeeded in getting the virus to spread to other chestnuts.

The chestnut blight, which was first recognized in 1904, did the most damage through the 1950s, killing an

estimated 3.5 billion trees.

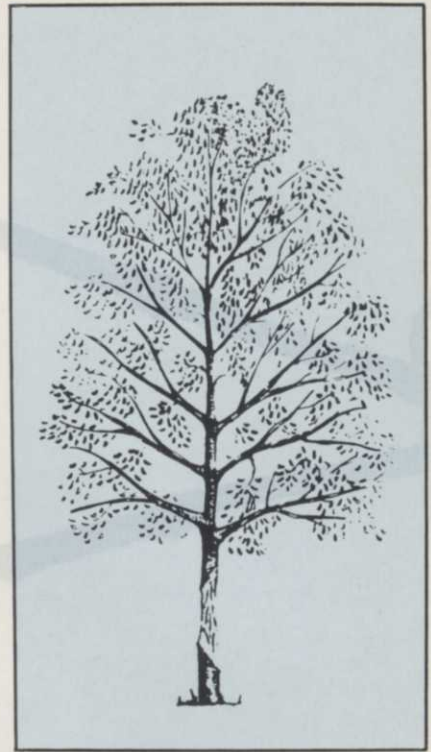
Since that time, most chestnuts roasted at Christmas have been imported from Italy.

The origin and nature of the new-found virus remains a mystery. What is known is that it differs from ordinary viruses since it lacks a protein coat.

It consists only of a double strand of RNA. Also, it can only exist in fungal cells and is only transmitted when an infected fungal cell fuses naturally with the cells of an uninfected fungi.

The mysterious disease worked quickly, decimating even the largest trees—ones 120 feet tall with 13-foot diameters—within two to three years.

The chestnut virtually disappeared from the American forest causing a recession within the American forest industry.



Chestnut blight

PESTICIDES

Expert panel cites 'national chemical scare'

"We're in the midst of a national chemical scare."

"A minefield of risks—that's how the public sees the pesticide issue. It's a black and white issue."

Dr. Allen Felsot, professor of environmental entomology at the University of Illinois, then switched gears. "I have news for you. When it comes down to economic issues, pesticides are good."

Speaking at the North Central Turfgrass Expo in Peoria, Ill., Felsot assured his audience of lawn care operators and turfmen that "the risks (of pesticide exposure) are actually quite low but you should never be complacent."

Felsot said the risks the public are exposed to each day (he cited natural radiation as one) are actually greater than those posed by pesticide exposure.

During the same session, Wendall R. Mullison, an agricultural products development research scientist with Dow Chemical, added: "Everything is toxic at some concentration, everything is non-toxic at some concentration." He attributed the quote to Paracelsus, a scientist of the Middle Ages known to some as "The Father of Toxicology."

Mullison, listing the importance of



Mullison, Dr. Felsot

pesticide use, said the United States Dept. of Agriculture estimates that without pesticides, food production would be off 50 percent in the U.S.

Felsot and Mullison stressed that proper disposal of pesticides should be of paramount importance to users. Mullison said incineration of those materials is a trend that will become the norm in the future.

Unfortunately there are those who disregard proper disposal procedures, said Illinois EPA agricultural advisor A.J. Taylor.

Improper handling, storage, and disposal of pesticides has resulted in higher levels of toxins in streams lo-

cated near pesticide storage sites.

During his presentation, Taylor showed extreme cases of improper pesticide storage and disposal. He urged his audience to use proper handling techniques, conceding that "pesticides will continue to be used. Let's be as cautious as we can."

He cited contamination of groundwater as the "hottest issue" associated with pesticide use today.

Other speakers included:

● Dr. Jack Murray, research agronomist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md., on "Potential for Breeding New Zoysiagrasses."

● Dr. William Meyer, Turf Seed Inc. of Hubbard, Ore., on "Breeding for Disease Resistance in Cool Season Turfgrasses."

● Dr. Richard Skogley, turfgrass professor at the University of Rhode Island, on "Ryegrass for Athletic Turf."

● Dr. Joe Vargas, plant pathology professor at Michigan State University, on "Take-All Patch & Disease Update."

● Dr. Kent Kurtz, turfgrass professor at Cal-Poly Pomona, on "The Wonderful World of Sports Turf."

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LAWN CARE

Campaign to plug lawn care gets results

Stauffer Chemical Company says its campaign to promote the professional lawn care industry gained the industry exposure in hundred of publications during 1985.

"Stauffer also received several hundred phone calls and letters from lawn care operators regarding the program," says Greg Bushman, marketing manager for the company's specialty products group. "Response to the campaign has been very positive."

Throughout 1985, Stauffer submit-



Just a sampling of the "ink" generated by Stauffer Chemical's lawn care industry exposure campaign.

ted articles to more than 1,100 newspapers, home and garden columnists, and university extension information offices.

"These articles gave the PLCAA high exposure, as well as educating the public on proper lawn care," Bushman says.

Press kits are available from Frank Lukasik, Agricultural Chemical Division, Stauffer Chemical Company, Westport, CT, (203) 222-3254.

SEED

Turfseed report is not good for 1986

The pessimistic report on turfseed availability issued in the October, 1985 issue of WEEDS TREES & TURF has worsened, according to a leading industry observer.

Lesco Inc. vice-president Art Wick, speaking before the Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation, said, "We're concerned with the availability not only of Kentucky bluegrass but of all species."

Wick cited winter weather in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, where

much of the country's turfseed is produced, as the main cause.

Temperatures and snowfall in the Pacific Northwest have not been as bad in 40 years, Wick reported. He added that, in some instances, entire crops have been lost, and that skimpy 20 percent yields among some cultivars are not unusual.

The crop of Kentucky bluegrass—hardest hit by fall rain and winter freezes—is entirely sold out for 1986, Wick also noted.

PESTICIDES

News media overplays pesticide risks, says toxicology expert

The frequency of filing injury claims related to the use of pesticides has increased in the last decade. Dr. Eric Comstock of the American Board of Medical Toxicology believes that sensationalism by the news media has caused the rise of such claims.

Comstock also blames the increase on ill-founded public hysteria caused by groups such as New York's "People Against Chlordane" and physicians with academic credentials "who regularly make reckless projections based on animal data of future human risk of cancer from trivial contact."

During his 23 years in practice, Comstock has treated about 8,000 cases concerning pesticide exposure.

The cases dealing with turf insecticides include 83 for diazinon, 43 for chlorpyrifos, 30 for baygon, and one each for maneb and daconil.

Comstock emphasizes, however, that while there have been some deaths in the thousands of cases, all survivors have shown complete recovery except for contact with one pesticide which has never been approved for use in the United States.

"There has been no instance of poisoning among consumers whose contact has been limited to the final application concentrations of the pesticides," Comstock says. "The poison mystic, fueled largely by the news media in recent years, has provoked numerous episodes of mass hysteria which burden the pest control industry with a wide spectrum of clinical conditions having no chemical relationship to the pesticide."

Comstock has labeled the condition "toxic habitation syndrome," referring to individuals with irrational anxiety about the contamination of the household or community environment.

Symptoms can include headaches, *continued on page 17*

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nausea or skin rashes, but abnormalities in target organs always are absent, he says.

Also, symptoms tend to remain the same whether the contamination is from chlorinated pesticides, organophosphate pesticides, herbicides or a variety of gases.

"The cause of the anxiety reaction is not the substance," Comstock says. "The precipitating is clearly identified in the news media and the societal response would be the same whatever the substance alleged to be involved."

TURF

New York women form 'Women in Turfgrass'

With more women entering the turfgrass industry, several members of the New York State Turfgrass Association have organized Women in Turfgrass (WITS), a group for networking and educational purposes.

WITS made its debut with a breakfast at the NYSTA turfgrass conference and trade show late last year.

Organizer Janet Dudones said 15 women attended the breakfast meeting. Those women held positions in the industry ranging from golf course owner, to turfgrass researchers for companies and universities.

"Turfgrass was previously not

considered an occupation for women," Dudones said. "This group is needed to show that women can work in the industry and that they're doing a good job."

Dudones, president and owner of the Ed Worthington Corporation, said very few women enter the industry through landscaping and grounds maintenance. Many women, in fact, get involved with their husband's businesses.

Dudones and other members of WITS would like to educate young women in high schools and colleges to consider a career in the field.

"One of our goals is to see what's available in schools," Dudones said. "Most have horticulture programs, but few emphasize the turfgrass industry."

WITS has looked at ways to accomplish this, including designing a brochure, to be distributed at schools and groups such as 4-H, advocating turfgrass careers for women.

Other goals of the WITS include making women more visible in turfgrass publications, developing a networking list, conducting a survey of NYSTA members and creating a resume file for prospective employees.

WITS plans to meet this summer at the Cornell Turf Field Day.

For women interested in joining WITS or starting a similar organization in other states, write Dudones at the Ed Worthington Corporation, 50 Petrova Ave., Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

TURF

Agrono-Tec markets three new turf types

Agrono-Tec of Escondido, Calif., is marketing three new turf types.

Turf Star, a blend of top-rated perennial ryegrass, contains a calcium endophyte fungus which provides resistance to insects. It shows heat resistance, cold tolerance, close mowing capabilities and disease resistance, according to Agrono-Tec.

Tempo Turf type tall fescue shows resistance to disease, wear tolerance, color and texture, says Agrono-Tec. It also does well in shaded conditions.

Water Saver Turf type tall fescue requires 20 percent less water than bluegrass and also resists disease.

For more information, contact Agrono Tec at (619) 480-9382.

LANDSCAPE

College now offers landscape degree

Influenced by the rapid growth of the landscape industry, a Wisconsin technical college has developed a degree in landscape management.

North Campus, Milwaukee Area Technical College in Mequon, Wis., now offers an associate degree in landscape management.

"While landscape management is a new business, it is already making its mark on what was once the provi-

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dence of a multitude of caretakers," says Mary Oberndorfer, a landscape management instructor.

The new program teaches an integrated approach to grounds planning, maintenance, and development.

The college staff worked closely with industry experts to design a program which includes both study and hands-on experience.

Students can also specialize in area such as fertilizer use, pest control, irrigation design, tree care, and construction.

For more information on the program, write the Horticulture Department, MATC North Campus, 5555 W. Highland Rd. Mequon, WI 53092, or call (414) 242-6500.

FUNGICIDES

Granular fungicide gets government OK

Mallinckrodt, Inc., has received federal registration for its Banrot 8.G, a broad spectrum granular root rot fungicide, originally introduced in 1973 as a wettable powder.

Mallinckrodt says Banrot 8.G can be used in the greenhouse, nursery, and the interiorscape. It works for the prevention and control of damping off, root rot, and stem rot caused by some water mold fungi and soil-borne fungi.

Banrot 8.G is available in 40 pound drums at Mallinckrodt distributors.

CHEMICALS

Balan offered in new particle size

Elanco Products has changed the particle size in Balan herbicide to improve spreadability, reduce dust, and increase calibration accuracy, says the Indianapolis-based company.

The new particle size results from the use of a clay carrier, which spreads more uniformly than limestone or corncob carriers. New spreader settings for Balan appear on the bag.

Elanco says Balan provides pre-emergence control of crabgrass in turf for 8 to 10 weeks with one application. A second application controls goosegrass. It can be used on all common varieties of cool- and warm-season turfgrasses.

LAWN CARE

It's no surprise: Kentucky blue and rye are favorites

Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass are the favorites of lawn care operators nationwide, according to a survey conducted by International Seeds Inc.

Forty-two of 100 northern lawn applicators who answered the survey questions cited Kentucky bluegrass as being the type of grass they use most frequently for new lawn installations. And 45 percent of 50 southern lawn applicators said they use ryegrass

most frequently for overseeding.

The survey was held at the Professional Lawn Care Association of America's convention and trade show in Tampa, Fla., last November.

GRASS USAGE

NORTHERN NORTHERN LAWN APPLICATORS

Q: What type of grass do you use most frequently for new lawn installations?

SOUTHERN SOUTHERN LAWN APPLICATORS

Q: What type of grass do you use most frequently for over-seeding?

BENTGRASS

3%

4%

RYEGRASS

25%

45%

FINE FESCUE

12%

11%

BLUEGRASS

42%

8%

TALL FESCUE

18%

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FREEBIE.....Elanco Products Co. is giving away sprayers to users of Surflan herbicide. End users of Surflan can receive either a Solo backpack sprayer or a Chem-Lawn spray gun free with the purchase of 50 gallons of Surflan 4AS. The Solo backpack sprayer comes equipped with a pressure regulator and two-nozzle spray boom. The Chem-Lawn spray gun is available with a choice of nozzles, which provide either four to five gallons per minute or two to three gallons per minute. Also available is a Solo Hanjet compression sprayer.

ANOTHER FREEBIE.....Our friends in New Jersey tell us that a condensed version of the Economic Survey of the New Jersey turfgrass industry is available at no cost. The leaflet is available upon request from the Publications Office at Cook College (Rutgers University).

BERMUDAGRASS VS. ZOYSIAGRASS.....According to Dr. Jack Murray, research agronomist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md., zoysiagrass stacks up pretty well in a comparison with bermudagrass. Here's what he says: in shade tolerance, zoysia is superior; in wear tolerance, zoysia is superior; in rate of spread, bermuda is superior; in recovery, bermuda is superior; in ease of establishment, bermuda is superior; in cold tolerance, zoysia is superior; and in fall and spring color, zoysia is superior. A couple of other points Dr. Murray makes about zoysiagrass; its major problems are difficulties in establishment and its long winter dormancy period. He says northern transition zone areas provide the best climate for zoysiagrass.

SPRING WATER SPRAYING.....Spring is just around the corner so it might be time for some of you in the transition zone (and maybe even some northern areas) to start thinking about aquatic weed control. Dr. Joe Downs, a technical specialist with Monsanto Agricultural Products Co., says there are several things you should keep in mind when using chemicals to control water weeds: 1) applications made in moving water must be made while traveling upstream to prevent concentration build-up; 2) do not apply within .5 mile upstream of a potable water intake; 3) do not apply in estuaries; and 4) do not apply on rice levees when flood water is present. Application of chemicals in water is an exact science. Exercise prudence while applying.

NO MORE POA... ..Scott Niven, property manager at The Stanwich Club, Stanwich, Conn., used to water his poa annua fairways up to four times a day to keep them cool and green. That's when he decided to make the switch to bentgrass. But Niven said he couldn't have done it without Cutless. "Can't fertilize and get the dark green that a Cutless application will give," Niven said. Using Cutless not only gave him improved color and vitality of the perennial grasses, but also reduced the mowing requirements and grass clippings (by almost 50 percent) over eight to 10 weeks. The Cutless reduced thatch and eliminated various weeds. Primarily, it inhibited the poa annua, allowing the bentgrass to grow in.

PEOPLE

Names in the news

Marshall Bossard, groundskeeper at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, has retired after a 48-year career. Bossard is the last of the famous Bossard family that for many years made the baseball field the best in the American League, following father Emil and brother Harold.

Charles R. Johnson, president of California Landscape, Canoga Park,



Charles Johnson

Calif., has been installed as new president of the California Landscape & Irrigation Council. He succeeds **Mickey Strauss** of American Landscape, Canoga Park, Calif. Other officers are **Klaus W. Ahlers**, **Art**

Torres, **John Carlson**, **William N. Cohen** and **Julie Kitch**.

Ahmed Daoud Ali has been added to the cooperative extension office of the University of California, Riverside. Ali has a Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.

John Betts has been named golf course superintendent for the Port Royal Golf Clubs, Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Island, S.C. The graduate of the University of Michigan moves up from assistant superintendent.

New officers in the North Central Weed Control Conference are **Calvin G. Mesersmith** of North Dakota State University, **R. Gordon Harvey** of the University of Wisconsin, **Loyd M. Wax** of the USDA, **Earl W. Chamberlain** of Ciba-Geigy, **Jerry D. Doll** of the University of Wisconsin; **Edward W. Stoller**, of the USDA, **John W. Nalewaja** and **Alan Dexter** of North Dakota State, **Ellery L. Knake** of the University of Illinois, and **Robert Schmidt**.

Aquatrols Corp. has announced a personnel change. **Andy Moore** has been promoted to national sales manager for Aqua-Gro and Foliocote.

Three dealers were added to Elanco's network: **Nick Clifford** of Clifford Enterprises, St. Louis; **Benn Heskett** and **Tim King** of B.A. Heskett, Worthington, Ohio; and **Ed Swallow** of Portland, Ore.

Bill Riden has been named Chipco turf and ornamental product sales specialist, covering eastern Pennsylvania and New York State. He has previously worked for Mobay, W.A. Cleary and O.M. Scott & Son.