

HOT TOPICS

EPA, 2,4-D Task Force agree on new label and exposure reduction effort

WASHINGTON—The U.S. EPA and the 2,4-D Task Force recently agreed on new exposure-reduction language on the herbicide 2,4-D product labels.

The following measures will appear on the labels of 2,4-D turf products formulated after June 15, 1994, according to the negotiated settlement:

- Mixers/loaders/applicators must wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks. Users of turf liquid products with "Warning" or "Danger" signal words must wear face shield or safety glasses.

- Users of turf liquid amine products must wear rubber gloves, and users of non-amine formulations must wear chemical-resistant gloves.

- Persons who pour from open containers of over 1 gallon (and less than 5 gallons) must wear overalls or chemical-resistant aprons.

- "Probe and pump" systems must be used to transfer the contents of containers 5 gallons or more in capacity.

- Maximum turfgrass application rates of 2 lbs./acre/application.

- Maximum of two broadcast applications per year per turfgrass site.

Further, the label will state that people (other than the applicator) or pets are not allowed on 2,4-D-treated turfgrass areas until sprays have dried or dusts have settled. The 2,4-D Task Force also agreed to develop a product education program for both professional and do-it-yourself users to further reduce human exposure. "We (2,4-D Task Force) will be testing to see if the message is getting through and whether it's being understood," says Pam Jones, a spokesperson for the task force. (The 2,4-D Task Force is composed of companies that manufacture and formu-

late 2,4-D.) The EPA also gave the 2,4-D Task Force members more time for required rodent carcinogenicity studies.

The EPA is convening, early in 1993, a 10-member panel of experts to review epidemiological data on 2,4-D. The panel will be "an advisory panel for the comprehensive evaluation of the carcinogenicity of 2,4-D," EPA says.

"The Agency (EPA) is trying to make a determination about whether the compound should go into special review and it intends to use that review to help it make that judgement," says Gary Hamlin, a spokesman for DowElanco, a task force member. Several farm worker studies have suggested a link between long-term 2,4-D use and a relatively rare form of cancer. These findings have not been corroborated by other evidence, claims the task force.

—Ron Hall

PLCAA, Univ. of Georgia plan home-study course

MARIETTA, Ga.—The Professional Lawn Care Association (PLCAA) and the University of Georgia are planning a home-study course on turfgrass care and management, to be available in early 1993.

The course is authored by Dr. Keith Karnok, professor of agronomy, and contains approximately 200 study hours of material. Topics are:

- turfgrass growth, development and establishment;
- fertilization, irrigation and mowing;
- weed/insect/disease control;
- control product regulations; and
- soil types.

A portion of the course will cover management practices used for alleviating

environmental stress, such as high and low temperatures, drought, and shade.

The course will also include discussions concerning pesticide use, regulations and safety as well as integrated pest management. Lawn care technicians who complete the course will be recognized as Certified Turfgrass Professionals by the PLCAA.

Karnok says the program allows LCOs to learn the technical aspects of turfgrass management without being restricted to a classroom.

"Along with the experience of working in the lawn care field, this course will provide valuable training on topics of real importance in today's industry," Karnok

says.

Ann McClure, PLCAA's executive vice president, thinks the diversity of topics is what makes the course special.

"The correspondence course can take people beyond the basic technician level toward being more knowledgeable, well-rounded turfgrass professionals," says McClure. "PLCAA believes this will mean a higher quality of service to the public."

PLCAA's other educational project is a joint venture with Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE): a three-part technician video program, which complements the University of Maryland's EPA-funded, six-part video series, "Using Pesticides Safely."

PLCAA has been advised by the EPA's certification and training branch and will continue to seek its input as the program progresses.

—Terry McIver

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