

Vol. 17 No. 01

Pest Alert

January 31, 2000

**The Pest Alert is now found on the World Wide Web at
<http://www.csuag.com> , once there click on the link to Pest Alert**

**PEST ALERT GOES TO WEB
DRY WEATHER HARD ON TREES
COLORADO CHEMSWEEP 2000
EPA ENHANCES "RED" WEB SITE
EPA RELEASES REPORT OF 1996-97 ESTIMATED PESTICIDE SALES
AND USAGE IN THE UNITED STATES
SWEET CORN PRODUCTION & BIOFUMIGATION TIPS**

PEST ALERT GOES TO WEB

Yes time has come for us to move the Pest Alert to the web. Over the next year we will be making the transition and by January 2000 will only be putting the Pest Alert out on the web. There are several reasons for doing this.

Use of the web allows the Pest Alert to be more timely and of immediate use.

It will cut costs and thus be free to anyone wishing to access it.

It will allow more use of illustrations and even color which at the present time has not been possible.

In the transition period we will be continuing to put out a hard copy to those subscribers presently on our list. No new subscriptions will be accepted. We will also be putting Pest Alert on the web at <http://www.csuag.com>. Once there click on the link to Pest Alert.

We realize that there may be a few interested persons that do not have access to the web. We recommend that they contact the local extension office, library, Kinko's or other computer services resource to access the Pest Alert. (Brown)

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.
Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

DRY WEATHER HARD ON TREES

The extended dry weather is making it hard on shrubs and trees. Deep watering is needed to help relieve the drought stress and prevent damage from developing that will show in the coming season.

Deep watering is accomplished with a soil root feeder needle or just letting the water from the hose run slowly in the drip line of the tree. Make sure that the water is turned off at night and the hoses are disconnected to prevent any possible freezing of pipes. I have even been rolling my hoses up and putting them in the garage at night so I do not have to wait for the hoses themselves to thaw the next morning when I want to start the water again.

Winter desiccation is a major problem in Colorado landscapes and in a year like this the potential is very good for considerable damage to take place. (Brown)

COLORADO CHEMSWEEP 2000

Due to previous success and much demand, Colorado ChemSweep, a waste agricultural pesticide program, is coming again, statewide, the second week of March. The registration deadline is February 15, 2000. Brochures and registration forms are available at all county Cooperative Extension Offices in Colorado. This will be the third statewide ChemSweep. Since the program started with a pilot in 1995, 68,665 pounds of waste pesticides have been collected in Colorado from 225 participants.

The program provides an opportunity for unusable pesticides to be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. ChemSweep is conducted under the "Universal Waste Rule" which will allow MSE Environmental, Inc. to go to the site, properly package the waste, take possession of the waste and become the generator of the waste, thus reducing future liabilities for the program participants. The program meets all state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

The cost to participants will be between \$2.25 - \$2.65 per pound. However, a minimum of \$50.00 (approximately 20 pounds of waste) is required for MSE to make an on-site visit. Due to this cost restriction you may want to creatively design ways for growers or others with very small amounts of waste to cooperate with each other or someone with a larger amount of waste.

For further information contact Sandra McDonald at 970-491-6027, fax 970-491-3862 or e-mail smcdonal@lamar.colostate.edu or MSE Colorado ChemSweep Hotline at 1-888242-4362.

EPA ENHANCES "RED" WEB SITE

EPA has made changes to the Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) documents web site. A new box highlights REDs that are open for public comment and links to their location in the main table. In addition, the table now includes links from the newly added REDs to the associated Federal Register notice of availability, as well as to support documents where relevant. The RED web site is at <http://www.epa.gov/REDs/>. For information about ongoing activities in the Office of Pesticide Programs, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>.

EPA RELEASES REPORT OF 1996-97 ESTIMATED PESTICIDE SALES AND USAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

EPA has released its biennial pesticide usage report, "Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage - 1996-1997 Market Estimates." This report provides estimates of the U.S. pesticide sales and usage for 1996 and 1997. The report is designed to provide contemporary and historical economic profile

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information on the U.S. pesticide production and use sectors covered by regulatory programs mandated by Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Economic profile information is provided on a variety of topics, particularly the pesticide market in terms of dollar values and quantities of active ingredient. The estimates are based on available information taken from Agency records, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) surveys of pesticide usage, and other public and proprietary sources.

The report indicates a continuation of recent trends in pesticide use. Overall U.S. use, in pounds of active ingredient (conventional pesticides plus other chemicals such as sulfur and petroleum), increased less than 2 percent in 1996 (over the previous year) and decreased about 1 percent in 1997, apparently due largely to changes in acreage of major crops such as corn.

The overall total U.S. use for all types of pesticide active ingredients was about 4.6 billion pounds per year. The use of herbicides and plant growth regulators declined in 1997 by 10 million pounds; nematicides and fumigant use declined by 15 million pounds; and sulfur and oil use increased by 14 million pounds during the same period.

Agricultural use accounted for slightly more than three-fourths of the total of 1.23 billion pounds of conventional pesticides (including sulfur and petroleum products) in 1997. The remaining nearly one-fourth of conventional pesticide use is split about evenly between applications by homeowners (11 percent) and professional applications in non-agriculture sectors (12 percent). The report contains estimates of use in 1997 for other types of active ingredients as follows: 0.66 billion pounds for wood preservatives, 0.27 billion pounds for specialty biocides (for water treatment, disinfection, sanitizers, etc.), and nearly 2.5 billion pounds for chlorine/hypochlorites (used for various disinfectant and water treatment uses).

The Pesticide Market Reports for the years 1994 -1995 and 1996 -1997 are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/oppbead1/pestsales/>. To obtain a copy of the 1996 -1997 report, call or write: U.S. EPA, NCEPI, P. O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-2419; telephone 513-489-8190.

SWEET CORN PRODUCTION & BIOFUMIGATION TIPS.

The January 6, 2000 newsletter from Washington State University contained an interesting note regarding on-farm research in Oregon where a system of strip-tillage and cover crop mulches improved or maintained sweet corn yields while potentially increasing profits. In 15 separate trials, farmers killed fall-planted cover crops with glyphosate 2 – 6 weeks before spring planting. Then, due to wet spring conditions, they strip-tilled the fields to warm and dry the soils before planting sweet corn. Direct seeding was used where conditions were drier and warmer. Farmers' yields increased as compared to their normal practices, by an average of 0.5 ton/A in 1997-98 and by 0.4 ton/A in 1998-99. Economic analysis showed that there was a 75% probability of increasing economic return (not counting savings in tillage costs) by \$ 68/A.

Cover crops are already known to provide many benefits, including reduced soil erosion, reduced nitrogen leaching, increased water infiltration, less soil compaction, and improved soil structure, but now they are also helping farmers manage parasitic nematodes and soil-borne diseases. Research has shown that specific varieties of sudangrass, and some brassicas, including rape seed and white mustard, can reduce populations of Columbia root-knot nematode. The populations of other types of nematodes and some soil-borne diseases, including Verticillium Wilt, have also been reduced using these cover crops. The nematodes and plant diseases are killed by chemicals produced when these cover crops decay in the soil. In the case of white mustard, the chemicals produced are very similar to the chemicals in the fumigant Vapam.

For more information, call Andy McGuire, Ag Systems Educator, at the WSU Extension Office in Euphrata, 509-754-2011. (Schwartz)

POLICY PAPER ON ROLE OF USE-RELATED INFORMATION PUBLISHED

On July 14, 1999, EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing the availability of a draft document for public comment- The Role of Use-Related Information in Pesticide Risk Assessment and Risk Management. This paper is being released for a 60-day public comment period, as part of a process developed in conjunction with the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) to ensure that EPA's policies related to implementing the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) are transparent and open to public participation. The paper announced in this notice summarizes the types of use-related information used by EPA in risk assessment and risk management, where the data come from, and how the Agency employs these data.

The Federal Register notice includes questions on which EPA is particularly seeking comment. The paper is available through the OPP Docket and on the Internet at:

www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac/science/.

Comments can be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically as described in the Federal Register notices. The Federal Register notice is available electronically at www.epa.gov/fedrgstr. (McDonald)

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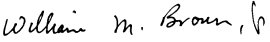
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,


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