

# Look What's Out There

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<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/>

## EVERY AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCT ON THE MARKET NOW LISTED

A comprehensive article that lists every biotechnology agricultural product that has been approved in Canada, Mexico, and the United States is now available at: [whybiotech.com](http://whybiotech.com). A total of 73 biotech products have received commercial approval so farmers can grow them in these three countries: 56 in the United States, 54 in Canada, and three in Mexico. The vast majority are different varieties of four major crops: soybeans, cotton, corn, and canola. Read more at: <http://www.whybiotech.com/index.asp?id=2837> (Whybiotech.com, 4/4/03)

## Health and Children

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, a child is accidentally poisoned every 30 seconds in the United States. More than half of these poisonings occur at home to children under age five. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that in 2001, an estimated 66,000 children less than six years of age were involved in common household pesticide-related poisonings or exposures. To assist education in this area, a new kit entitled "Poison Prevention: Read the Label First!" is available for communities to raise awareness of poison prevention and the importance of reading labels on household chemical cleaners and pesticides. Produced by the National Safety Council under an EPA grant, the package is designed for use by community organizers and other organizations engaged in

public education. The kit includes fact sheets, sample press releases, activities for children, and a variety of other materials designed to: raise awareness about the preventable poisonings caused by the improper use and storage of household chemicals and pesticides; teach parents, pet owners, gardeners, and others the value of reading and understanding product labels; plan poison prevention outreach activities and evaluate these activities; and work with local officials and the media to focus attention on your planned outreach activities. The Community Action Kit is available by contacting Donald Gooding at the National Safety Council at 202-974-2496 or by sending an e-mail to [gooding@nsc.org](mailto:gooding@nsc.org). (EPA OPP Pesticide Program Update, 4/3/03).

## Pesticide Use Ban in Canada

A proposal to ban pesticide use in Montreal was the subject of a public meeting held March 13, and one attendant questioned whether there was need for the ban, since Quebec, the province in which Montreal is located, recently adopted one of the toughest pesticide bans in the world. Quebec's new law immediately bans the use of 23 pesticides; but left seven ingredients, including sulfur, spinosad, and methoprene, on an approved list. Products containing active ingredients such as carbaryl, 2,4-D, and malathion are now banned from public, semi-public, and municipal green spaces. The ban will include private and commercial green spaces in three years. It will also prohibit pesticide/fertilizer mixtures as of March 2004, and a year later will prohibit the display of

pesticide products intended for domestic use in such a manner that the products are accessible to the public. However, Montreal's proposal would go further, banning the use of all pesticides, except in particular circumstances. Industry has sharply criticized Quebec's actions as threatening NAFTA agreements. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 3/24/03, 3/31/03 & *CropLife America Spotlight*, 3/28/03).

## **Pesticide News**

\* Based on work by IR-4, tolerances have been obtained for the use of the herbicide Dual Magnum® (S-metolachlor) in or on grass forage (10 ppm), grass hay (0.2 ppm), spinach (0.5 ppm), and tomato (0.1 ppm). (*Federal Register*, 4/2/03)

\* "For Organic Production" may now be included on pesticide labels if all active and inert ingredients meet the requirements of EPA's final guidance issued March 5. The guidance relates to EPA approval of label language for products meeting National Organic Program Rule criteria. Access at [http://www.epa.gov/opppmsd1/PR\\_Notices/](http://www.epa.gov/opppmsd1/PR_Notices/). (*CropLife America Spotlight*, 3/14/03).

\* The federal government has announced a website aimed at allowing greater public participation in the federal regulatory process by consolidating all government rules open for public comment into a single site. All such rules will be available for both review and comments. The e-rulemaking site can be found at: <http://www.regulations.gov> (Courtesy of H. Jones, 4/2/03).

\* The days of the venerable corn/soybean rotation appear to be numbered. The reasons include declining soybean yields, federal commodity policy, soybean competition from Brazil, developing local corn markets and the advent of rootworm-resistant hybrids. With soybean yields falling by nearly twenty percent over the last eight years, growers who are experimenting with two years of corn followed by one year of soybean are seeing increased soybean yield. When Bt rootworm-resistant corn hybrids become available, they should let growers plant a second year of corn without losing yield, while picking up higher soybean yields in the third year of the rotation. (*Top Producer*, March 2003, via Agnet).