

Look What's Out There

in

Integrated Pest Management

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Issue 1–Jan. 2007
<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/>

Phasing Out of Guthion

EPA has issued its decision to phase out the remaining uses of the organophosphate insecticide azinphos-methyl (Guthion®) over the next several years. Under the agreement, Brussels sprouts and nursery stock will be phased out by September 30, 2007; almonds, pistachios and walnuts by October 30, 2009; and apples, blueberries, cherries, parsley, and pears by September 30, 2012. All other uses of AZM have been voluntarily canceled by the registrants. EPA consulted extensively with stakeholders and carefully considered both the risks and benefits of AZM in developing this plan. The Agency expects growers to successfully adapt and make the transition to available safer alternative pesticides, including acetamiprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, methoxyfenozide, novaluron, tebufenozide, thiacloprid, and thiamethoxam. Additionally, registrants will develop training materials in both English and Spanish that are designed to educate workers regarding (1) work practices that can reduce exposure to AZM; (2) the recognition of symptoms associated with cholinesterase inhibition; and (3) how to seek medical attention in the event that workers experience such symptoms. These materials will include a description of how, and by whom, the training will be conducted. (EPA email of 11/28/06).

Discussion on Imported Plants

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hosting an electronic public discussion on methods that can be used to

evaluate the potential of imported plants to become invasive species if they are introduced into the United States. Any interested person can register for the electronic discussion, which will allow participants to upload files and interact with other participants and with APHIS staff. The electronic public discussion will be held from November 27, 2006 to January 26, 2007. (*Federal Register*)

Tomato with Higher Flavonoids

BASF Scientists have engineered a tomato that contains higher amounts of flavonoids that, when fed to mice, significantly reduced C-reactive protein (CRP) levels. The mice themselves were transgenic, with inherently greater amounts of CRP, which is associated with vascular diseases. The amount of peel (which contains 95 percent of the beneficial tomato flavonoids) that the mice ingested was equivalent to about three tomatoes a day for humans. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 10/30/06).

Sales of Organic Foods

Organic foods are a \$14 billion business with a brisk growth rate, and they account for 2.5 percent of total food sales. Some marketers are

spending more to introduce organic versions of mainstream foods than they are earning from sales of organics, as consumers balk at paying more for organic versions of their favorite products. One Midwest grocery executive who recently discontinued Campbell's Prego organic pasta sauce and Unilever's Ragu organic sauce due to low sales, and who predicts the same fate for Kellogg's organic cereals, was quoted as saying, "Most of my consumers couldn't care less. I see this going the same way as low-carb." After an expensive flop with its Carb Options line, Unilever this year introduced Ragu organic pasta sauce with \$20 million in advertising, only to see it wither on the vine. An executive close to the company said Unilever has failed to sell enough to cover its marketing outlay for the brand and has been forced to "scale its organic strategy way back" as a result. By next year the brand will be limited to - at most - 15 percent of traditional grocery stores, mainly those that cater to upscale clientele interested in organic products. Others, such as Kraft, are not willing to abandon the organic market just yet, given the fact that the segment saw sales growth of 16 percent to \$14 billion last year, according to Nutrition Business Journal. But that number still represents less than 3 percent of food sales - and some 41 percent of total organic-food sales are from commodities like fruits, vegetables and meats. (*Advertising Age*, 10/15/06).

Ornamental Horticulture Pests

The yearly IR-4 ornamental horticulture survey reveals the top issues of stakeholders in this arena. The top five arthropod species of concern were thrips, whiteflies, scales, mealybugs, and spider mites. The top five diseases were *Phytophthora*, *Botrytis*, powdery mildew, *Rhizoctonia*, and downy mildew. The top five weeds were spurge, bittercress, nutsedge, *Oxalis*, and *Eclipta*. (IR-4 Newsletter, October, 2006).

EPA Cancellations

EPA announced the official cancellation of all remaining approved agricultural uses of the pesticide lindane. The agency also announced the termination of all residential uses of the acid copper chromate (ACC) registration held by

Osmose Inc. and the cancellation of the Drexel Chemical Company's products containing the pesticide ethyl parathion.

Impacts of GM/GE Crops Assessed

Two recent in-depth studies broadly assess the impacts to date of genetically modified/engineered crops: the first, from Switzerland, takes an ecological perspective, while the second considers the approaches of economic studies of GE crops as conducted in developing economies.

The Swiss Expert Committee for Biosafety commissioned a far reaching, science-based study that resulted in a comprehensive paper published in late 2006 examining and documenting "Ecological Impacts of Genetically Modified Crops, Experiences from Ten Years of Experimental Field Research and Commercial Cultivation."

Authors, Olivier Sanvido *et al.*, primarily utilized peer-reviewed materials from scientific sources in an effort to address questions about GM crop impacts and effects on non-target organisms, soil ecosystems, gene flow from GM crops to wild relatives, GM crop invasiveness, impacts on management on pest organisms, and ecological benefits of GM crop cultivation.

Overall, the study concluded that available data do not provide any scientific evidence for harm to the environment attributable to commercial cultivation of GM crops. A minority of the Committee dissented from the study's conclusion.

Additionally, the study's authors state that, "the real choice is between GM crops and current conventional pest management practices, all possibly having positive and negative outcomes," and that a truly precautionary policy requires comparing "the risk of adopting a technology against the risk of not adopting it."

The 108-page PDF document can be downloaded for free from:

<http://www.agbios.com/docroot/articles/06-346-001.pdf>.

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Organic Land Care Basic Training for Municipal Officials and Transitioning Landscapers

Safer Pest Control Project is helping to promote Organic Land Care Basic Training for Municipal Officials and Transitioning Landscapers, an on-line course geared specifically toward turf management officials and companies interested in expanding their service offerings. The program will be taught by Chip Osborne, a professional horticulturist with over 30 years experience and an expert on building and transitioning turf to organic care. This program will train officials in the principles and techniques necessary to produce a healthy lawn that is also a safe haven for children to play.

This course consists of three 75-minute online sessions on February 28, March 5, and March 14, 2007 (12pm- 1:15pm eastern standard time). All that is needed to get started is a phone and computer system. For more information on training or to register for the program, go to: www.pesticidefreelawns.org/training.

Funding Opportunity

- The Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is pleased to announce the release of the FY 2007 Request for Applications (RFA) for the Special Research Grants Program-Pest Management Alternatives (PMAP). Proposals must be received by Grants.gov by close of business

February 15, 2007 (5 p.m. Eastern Time). There is a total of \$1.4 million available and last year 26 percent of the projects were funded. For more information, see the USDA-CSREES site at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fo num=1114>.

Agricultural and Environmental News

EPA Funds Project to Tackle Household Pests in Safer Ways

PHILADELPHIA – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is funding the start-up of a project that will teach Philadelphia households how to fend off cockroaches and other little pesky critters in more safe and healthier ways. EPA's Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh awarded \$187,000 today to the Philadelphia School and Community Integrated Pest Management Partnership, as part of EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant program. This grant program supports communities in creating and using collaborative partnerships to reduce exposure to pollutants. The grant will be administered through the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office.

“Assisting communities in improving their local environment and the health of their citizens is important to EPA,” said Welsh. “This is best accomplished when grant recipients work with local organizations to identify areas of focus and create an agenda for action.”

The Philadelphia School and Community Integrated Pest Management Partnership (PSCIP) will use the EPA grant for outreach and education efforts to low-income areas where exposure to pests and pesticides can threaten people's health, especially children, pregnant women and the elderly. While pests can spread disease and trigger asthma, indoor use of pesticides can also be harmful.

“There is a great unmet need for community education on least-toxic integrated pest management (IPM) approaches. In childcare settings especially, aspects of healthy

environments are a concern. Pests are one of those concerns. But another major concern is the use of the wrong chemicals or the misuse of a pesticide which can be more of an issue affecting children's and parent's health," said Welsh.

"Empowering local residents to reduce the risks of pests and pesticide exposure in urban communities is the goal of our project," said Michelle Niedermeier, coordinator of the Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program. "Because pests move around a lot by nature, the task of fighting pests in urban environments requires collaborative community action and our goal is to raise awareness and understanding of local residents, businesses and service providers about pest infestations, pesticide risks, and common-sense IPM solutions."

IPM is a safe, effective, and scientific approach to managing pests. IPM uses knowledge of pests' habits and needs to help residents implement pest prevention tactics as a first line of defense. Because pesticides are poisonous, they are chosen only as a temporary tool. Only pesticide products that pose the least-toxic, least risk of exposure to residents should be chosen. Information about proper use, storage and disposal of pesticide products is also critical to avoid personal and environmental contamination.

Beginning in West Philadelphia, the PSCIP partners will work with community leaders to determine residents' needs and tailor training programs and materials to fit that need.

New educational materials and community interactions will empower residents to take control of their pest problems and make positive changes in the home, thus reducing the health risks associated with both pests and pesticides. By taking advantage of the many social service agencies in the City, the group will also develop multi-lingual publications, starting with Spanish.

Niedermeier estimates that at least 500 residents and six health care organizations and their staff will be educated on pests, pesticide use and IPM.

"We'll be 'training the trainer' with various organizations so that potentially a much larger population can be reached through their own clientele," she says.

Another goal of the project is to explore the connection between IPM implementation and the creation of local small-business enterprises and job skills training. Pest management professionals and other small businesses are key to continuing IPM implementation in low-income neighborhoods. Reward systems for pest management professionals using IPM practices can be implemented to encourage them to fine-tune their skills and receive additional training.

Today's ceremony, at which EPA presented the \$187,000 check, was held at The Preschool Project, a PSCIP partner, located on Columbia Avenue.

"The Preschool Project is happy to be able to partner with PSCIP to educate families and professionals," explained Anne Rahn, executive director of The Preschool Project. "Our first major program together will be The Preschool Project's 7th annual Latino Child Care conference scheduled in April, the only bilingual child care conference in Pennsylvania."

Release date: 01/10/2007 Contact Information: Bonnie Smith (215) 814-5543 For more information on PSCIP and community IPM, visit <http://www.pscip.org>. For more information about Integrated Pest Management, visit www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/ipm.htm USDA EPA News (1/10/2007)

Did You Know That



Current orders suggest that "Roundup Ready" (R) corn could be planted on more than 16 million ha. (40 million ac.) in the U.S. during 2007. Crop Protection Monthly, 30 November 2006.

Public/Private Partnership-Educating Consumers about IPM and Water Quality. More Details are coming soon.

Comments or Questions?

Events



January 28-31, 2007

National Plant Diagnostic Network, National Meeting, Orlando, FL.

This event will be held at the Wyndham Orlando Resort.

February 25-28, 2007

Pesticide Stewardship Alliance (TPSA) Conference. Reno, Nevada. All interested parties are invited to attend – Register now at <http://pep.wsu.edu/tpsa07/> !

March 5-7, 2007

Spring Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) Meeting.

March 8, 2007

Perennial Plant Conference, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs Campus.

March 16, 2007

Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference and Trade Show.

March 21-23

American Phytopathological Society, Potomac Division Meeting. Blacksburg, Va. For more information:
<http://www.filebox.vt.edu/users/abaudoin/potomac/>

July 18-19, 2007