



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
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# THE GEORGIA PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Your source for pest management and pesticide news

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Well, we are back. I am not sure when things got so hectic that the newsletter fell off of the priority screen. From the response we have received, the GPMN is a useful source of information, and we will resume as a monthly.

**We are looking for yellow jacket nests and/or cooperators for a nonchemical control method.** In my limited experience, yellow jacket nests in the ground can be eliminated in a few days by covering the entrance hole(s) with a clear glass bowl. The bowl has to be tightly sealed to the ground. The wasps will not dig out, but they will quickly find any opening. I used sand or soil to close any gaps.

Most yellow jacket nests have only one entrance because the nests are typically constructed in existing holes, such as where roots have rotted away. Nests constructed in animal burrows may have more than one opening.

Unfortunately (everyone may not agree), I have had only two yellow jackets nests in my yard during the last seven years. I wiped out both nests with the glass bowl technique, but two replications do not make a valid experiment. I cannot advise the glass bowl trick as a recommendation without more information. Furthermore, I do not know if a clear bowl is necessary, nor do I know what sizes of bowls would work.

If you live in the Athens, Georgia area, send me an e-mail ([bugman@uga.edu](mailto:bugman@uga.edu)) if you know where a yellow jacket nest is. We will come over and try this technique. It will provide us valuable data, and you can rid of your yellow jacket problem for free. If you live away from Athens, we cannot make a personal visit, but we would like to have your input. I hope to get information from Georgia and other states to refine this strategy and expose any weaknesses.

If you decide to try the glass bowl trick on your local yellow jackets, the best time of day is early, early morning when the sun first rises. The wasps will not be fully active. If you worry about your early morning running speed, put your bowl down at dusk. You can put the bowl out when it is dark if you know exactly where the hole is. A flashlight beam may attract the yellow jackets to you, and running in the dark from yellow jackets is no fun.

**Do you ever wish that you had more pesticide rules to follow?** The Department of Homeland Security has issued some new regulations called the “Chemical Facility Antiterrorism Standards”. The rules are intended to keep the bad guys from using our own toxic chemicals against us.

Most of the chemicals on the list are not pesticides, but there are some important agricultural chemicals. The pesticides include chemicals like methyl bromide and aluminum phosphide. If you are not familiar with these chemicals, they are commonly used fumigants (Al phosphide produces phosphine gas), and they can be extremely dangerous if misused. My guess is that our enemies would not follow the label directions.

The potential aggravation for most people is ammonium nitrate fertilizer, which was the basis for the explosives used on Oklahoma City. Ammonium nitrate is an inexpensive way to add nitrogen to crops, and many growers keep a supply on hand during the growing season.

It is too early to accurately predict how these regulations will affect growers, golf courses, and other operations that use these chemicals, but the gist of the rule goes like this. If your plans include any of the listed chemicals at a level above the threshold, you will have to fill out some paperwork that helps the DHS determine the potential risk. The threshold depends on the chemical.

If your operation is classified as a high risk, you may have to make changes in your security plan or reduce the amounts and types of chemicals you store. Most facilities are not expected to fall into the high-risk category. Low risk operations will have to take few or no additional action.

The bottom line is to sit tight and wait to find out when the new standards will be implemented. We will keep you informed.

You can read the details at this web site.

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WASTE/2007/April/Day-09/f6363.htm>

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

**According to Hi-Bred International (a subsidiary of DuPont), biotechnology will continue to bring healthier food and greater sustainability.** Here are some of the products expected to come to the market.

- Corn with improved tolerance to heat and drought.
- More new, consumer-friendly products using building blocks for polymers from fermentation processes, thereby creating materials with performance-enhancing features. Genetically modified crops will be used to produce raw ingredients used to make plastics and other materials. This advance could be an important way to reduce our dependence on petroleum.
- Food quality improvements including: corn that allows for increased absorption of iron, thereby reducing the need for iron supplements; soybean oils with more cooking stability and health value; and better tasting soybean that performs better as an ingredient.

Read the full article in the June issue of AgroLinks. The entire magazine can be downloaded at [http://www.croplifeasia.org/ref\\_library/croplifeAsia/AgroLinksJun2007.pdf](http://www.croplifeasia.org/ref_library/croplifeAsia/AgroLinksJun2007.pdf).

These predictions sound great and certainly they would be welcome advances in agriculture. Several years ago, we hosted a symposium on biotechnology in agriculture, and most of the speakers talked about a rosy future that was just around the corner. However, one speaker (the designated naysayer) had some

interesting words of wisdom. She said that she had been hearing these same predictions for decades now, and she had become somewhat jaded to these projections that were “just around the corner.” The lesson is that technology generally takes longer to develop than we would like; the public likes rosy predictions. The industry provides them. I remember predictions about flying cars in the year 2000. When the year 2000 came, the average gas mileage of cars had dropped compared with 20 years ago, and no one is flying over the traffic jams.

(Crop Biotech Update, 6-29-07)

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Georgia residents can now call their local county Extension offices at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.** OC staff will be offering training for county secretaries on answering caller questions and providing good customer service.

**If you are need funding for an Extension project, look at the National Extension Integrated Pest Management Special Projects Program.** <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/eipm.html>

The USDA has set aside nearly \$500,000 for this program. Proposals submitted to National Extension Integrated Pest Management Special Projects Program (EIPM) should be relevant to current needs of Extension IPM programs for production agriculture, residential and public areas, and/or recreational environments. The program encourages the submission of proposals to help pest managers implement IPM methods that will enhance farm conservation efforts and the protection of natural resources. Projects can address management needs for any class of pests including weeds, insects, plant diseases, or vertebrates.

There has been a bit of confusion regarding who is eligible for these grants. It states “only Extension Directors” may apply. What it means is that an Extension Director will have to sign as the official authorized representative. Anyone from a 1862 or 1890 land grant institution may apply if they have an Extension project that fits the RFA.

The deadline is July 20.

**If you think pesticides and agriculture should not mix, the Organic Farming Research Foundation now offers educational and outreach grants.** New education and outreach Request for Proposal (RFP) and application guidelines are available [here](#).

OFRF also offers research grants, and has revised their Request for Proposals. Read the new research grants RFP and application guidelines: [http://ofrf.org/grants/apply\\_research.html](http://ofrf.org/grants/apply_research.html).

Deadlines for application are July 16 and Dec. 17, 2007. The program is open to all applicants residing in Canada, Mexico and the United States. OFRF particularly encourages farmers, ranchers, researchers, and extension personnel to consider applying for funding.

## DON'T DO IT

**A man sent an employee to pick up some pesticides, and one drum leaked nearly its entire contents on the way home.** Who do you think will be held responsible for the cost of cleanup? If someone decides to sue, do you think they will choose the driver or the company and their insurance company? Most importantly, how could this situation have been avoided?

You can probably guess the answers to the first two questions easily. The third solution requires a little training and foresight. Develop some kind of secondary containment system for pesticides you transport. If you transport small amounts of pesticides, a plastic tub is a simple, inexpensive way to reduce your risks. For larger amounts of pesticides, you may have to invest in a large trashcan or some other large container. You could even think of ways to anchor these containers in the vehicle to make it more convenient for your employees to transport pesticides safely.

Develop a plan to cover any emergencies that may occur during pesticide transport. Involve your employees in the plan and be sure they know what to do in an emergency. Their decisions could save your company huge amounts of money by avoiding accidents and responding appropriately in emergencies. Review the plans regularly; make safety training part of the investment in your business. The returns will be worth it.

**The Georgia Agriculture Department revoked the licenses of a pest control company and the operator.** East Coast Exterminating in Savannah and its operator lost their license for the following reasons.

- Using a pesticide in direct violation of the requirements of the label. (The applicator used a pesticide on the inside of a building for the control of fleas that was supposed to be used only on the outside.)
- Requirement that a pesticide application be made to a room only if children or students are not expected to be present in the room for a minimum of three hours after application. (The daycare staff was advised by the applicator that the children could re-enter the treated area within one hour and that was later changed to less than one hour. The children re-entered the room a short time after application.)
- Failure to maintain proper records of the application.

Everyone is very concerned about children's exposure to pesticides. If your company handles these kinds of accounts, you can expect additional scrutiny. The state and the pest control industry want to clean up these bad actors, and we are helping them. We are helping child-care centers and schools to choose companies that will follow regulations and minimize children's exposure to pesticides. (7-3-07)

## FEDERAL NEWS



**The EPA has established a temporary exemption from tolerance for residues of tobacco mild green mosaic tobamovirus (TMGMV) on grass and grass hay when applied/used as a bioherbicide against the weed tropical soda apple.** This regulation eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of TMGMV.

The temporary tolerance exemption expires on June 30, 2009. (Federal Register, 6-27-07) If you are not familiar with tropical soda apple, it is a noxious, invasive weed of some concern. From three to six feet high, it is unpalatable to livestock and can take over a sizable amount of pasture in one to two years. Widespread weeds are a problem because there are concerns about applying herbicides over large areas. If the biological control is effective, it will be a valuable option. You can find out a lot more on the Web. Here is a place to start. <http://www.tropicalsodaapple.org/>

## FQPA/REREGISTRATION

**The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) requires the EPA to develop a screen to determine if pesticides and other chemicals affect human hormone systems.** Hormones are chemical messengers in the body; some hormones, for example, determine if you will be a man or a woman. If you screw them up, you may come up with a person that spends a long time getting ready to go and will not stop for directions.

In September 2005, EPA published its approach for selecting the initial list of chemicals for which testing will be required under the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP). The Agency picked chemicals that people are most likely to be exposed to. The list includes pesticide active ingredients and chemicals used as inert ingredients in pesticide products. Just because a chemical is on the first list does not mean that the chemical is likely to interfere with the human hormone system.

After considering comments on this draft list of chemicals, EPA will issue a second Federal Register notice containing the final list of chemicals.

Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2004-0109, by one of the following methods.

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or mail. Comments must be received on or before September 17, 2007.

For more information, contact Linda Phillips, Office of Science Coordination and Policy (7203M), telephone number:(202) 564-1264; e-mail address: [phillips.linda@epa.gov](mailto:phillips.linda@epa.gov) (EPA Pesticide Program Update, 6-22-07)

### **The EPA has extended the comment period for soil fumigant risk-reduction to September 3, 2007.**

On May 2, 2007, EPA issued revised human health risk assessments and requested public comment on risk-reduction options for the soil fumigants: methyl bromide, metam sodium, dazomet, and chloropicrin. Another soil fumigant, 1,3-dichloropropene (telone) is included for comparison purposes, but its reassessment is complete and few, if any, regulatory changes are anticipated. EPA recently hosted public meetings on these soil fumigants in Washington state and in Florida, and participated in a public meeting in California where it obtained comments on possible risk mitigation options directly from stakeholders.

Soil fumigants offer a difficult challenge to EPA and agriculture. These products have significant environmental/human health risks, but they are nearly irreplaceable in some pest management situations. The Agency is looking to the people that use the products for ideas about how to reduce the risks while maintaining critical benefits. Here is an opportunity for agriculture to alter the future. If you have an idea to reduce the risk of soil fumigants, it is time to speak.

You will find more information on soil fumigant risk mitigation options and how to submit comments is available at

[http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/risk\\_mitigation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/soil_fumigants/risk_mitigation.htm).

## HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**The authors of a Canadian study are calling for a ban of all pesticides for cosmetic purposes, and the Canadian Cancer Society agrees with them.** The report investigates acute pesticide poisonings in Canada (about 6,000 total and 2,800 children annually). However, cosmetics and cleaning materials are

the leading causes of acute poisoning in Canada; medicines poison the most Canadian children. *I wonder if anyone is calling for a ban on cosmetics used for cosmetic purposes.*

By comparison, the U.S. reports more than 100,000 pesticide poisonings each year, with about 50,000 victims under six years old. The U.S. probably does use more pesticide than Canada because our climate encourages more and a greater variety of pests. Additionally, our poison reporting system is much more developed than the Canadian system.

In addition to a ban on cosmetic pesticides, the report includes six other recommendations.

- 1) Require all pesticides to be sold in child-proof containers. *I agree with this suggestion as long as the safeguards do not increase the risk of spillage when the container is opened. Childproof containers are credited for part of the decline in children poisoning caused by medicines.*
- 2) Increase funding to poison-control centers. The authors feel that the number of poisonings in Canada is greatly underestimated.
- 3) Implement a national poisoning prevention program.
- 4) Ban pesticides that have been banned in other countries for health reasons. *Pesticide regulation should be a balance between risks and benefits; another country may ban a pesticide for health reasons if the chemical offers their country little or no benefit.*
- 5) Establish a national environmental health tracking system that includes pesticides.
- 6) Recognize a citizen's right to a healthy environment. *No problem with the spirit of this recommendation; the tricky part comes when you try to define a "healthy environment". Maybe you think ticks in the environment are unhealthy; maybe I think that is unhealthy to spray the pesticides required to kill the ticks.*

***The appearance of any trade name in this newsletter is not intended to endorse that product nor convey negative implications of unmentioned products.***

Dear Readers:

The Georgia Pest Management Newsletter is a monthly journal for Extension agents, Extension specialists, and others interested in pest management news. It provides information on legislation, regulations, and other issues affecting pest management in Georgia.

Do not regard the information in this newsletter as pest management recommendations. Consult the [Georgia Pest Management Handbook](#), other Extension publications, or appropriate specialists for this information.

Your input in this newsletter is encouraged.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list, just call us at 706-542-9035.

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Or visit us on the Web. You will find all the back issues there and other useful information.

[http://www.ent.uga.edu/GPMN\\_archive.htm](http://www.ent.uga.edu/GPMN_archive.htm)

Sincerely:



Dr. Paul Guillebeau, Professor & Extension Entomologist