



The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Department of Entomology

# THE GEORGIA PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Your source for pest management and pesticide news

November-December 2005

Volume 28, no. 11-12

## HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### **Aerial drift in California is moving enough insecticide into mountain ponds to threaten amphibians.**

Researchers collected amphibian eggs from pristine areas and reared them in water treated with the insecticide endosulfan at levels up to 15 ppb. Endosulfan has been documented at 0.3 ppb in ponds and snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Although many people would consider 0.3 ppb to be a very low concentration, it was enough to kill 50% of some frogs in these laboratory experiments. Some animals were even killed by a level of 0.15 ppb.

Scientists believe that the endosulfan is coming from agricultural area in California's Central Valley. The Valley is bordered by the Sierra Nevadas, and endosulfan is commonly used in agricultural production. Winds blowing across the Valley can carry pesticides high into the mountains. Pesticide drift may be responsible for amphibian decline in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

This type of study may bring about the demise of endosulfan. For many years, the EPA has had human and environmental concerns about this organochlorine insecticide. The Agency removed all endosulfan products from the home market several years ago. Additionally, new insecticides are available that can replace many endosulfan applications, although at a higher price.  
(Science News, 12-10-05)

**A small study in Pennsylvania discovered residues of DDT and other chemicals in plush toys.** The researchers noted that the stuffing of plush toys is very similar to absorbents that scientists use to collect volatile chemicals for analysis. Of the eleven toys tested thus far, all of them carried flame retardant chemicals (probably added intentionally), and most of the toys carried residues of DDT. The source of the DDT is unclear, since the insecticide has been banned for use in the U.S. for many years. (Science News, 12-10-05)

Don't throw out your child's favorite teddy based on this information. Eleven stuffed animals is a small sample, and the article did not include the source or age of the toys. I asked the researchers for additional information. Future editions of the newsletter will keep you informed.

**According to the Pesticide Action Network** (<http://www.panna.org/>), the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment intends to list the herbicide 2,4-D and related compounds as developmental toxicants under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986. The

herbicide has been associated with certain types of developmental abnormalities when laboratory animals were exposed to 2,4-D in the womb. The California listing would mean that the state considers the evidence strong enough to warrant a warning.

The listing may be partly an artifact of California regulation and liability concerns. For example, California regulations require that many sand products marketed to children indicate that the sand may contain carcinogens. Some sand has crystalline silica and/or asbestos compounds that have increased the risk of cancer under occupational exposures. All sand does not contain these substances, but companies may add the warning just to protect themselves against lawsuits related to mislabeling. California may be listing 2,4-D as a way to make sure they are in compliance with regulations and shielded from concomitant liability.

Unfortunately, the regulations and this discussion do not answer the basic question. "If I just sprayed the yard with 2,4-D, is it dangerous to roll around in the grass with my wife?" No one knows. It is very difficult and expensive to collect data that help us understand the potential long-term risks of pesticide exposure. The same quandary is true for nearly all other chemicals as well. We are left with a basic lesson. Don't have a cow about pesticide exposure, but always MINIMIZE your exposure to them. Use pesticides ONLY when they are necessary as part of an integrated pest management program. ALWAYS wear the protective equipment indicated on the pesticide label. NEVER use more pesticide than indicated by the label.

In my opinion, the rules are even more stringent for women of child-bearing age, especially if they are pregnant. Women that may become pregnant should be doubly careful of pesticide exposure, and pregnant women should avoid applying pesticides whenever possible. Make that lazy, good-for-nothing father get off the sofa and handle any pesticides.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

**The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service has released the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program Request for Application.** Information on this funding opportunity, including the RFA, application guide, and previously funded projects is available at following website: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/biotechnologyriskassessment.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/biotechnologyriskassessment.html).

Note that this RFA provides the option for applications to be submitted electronically to CSREES through Grants.gov or by hard copy. Either way the application is submitted, please allow enough time to prepare the application since the use of new application forms is required.

The application deadline is February 16, 2006.

**The European Commission has authorized Denmark to pay compensation to farmers with conventional or organic crops that suffer economic losses when genetically modified (GM) material is found.** The compensation will be granted when the presence of GM material exceeds 0.9 % and is limited to the price difference between the market price of a crop that has to be labeled as containing GM material and a crop for which no such labeling is required. The compensation is financed by obligatory contributions from farmers who cultivate GM crops.

Economic losses may occur due to admixture of conventional crops with GM material if a farmer's product has to be labeled as containing GM material and he gets a lower price for it. The compensation fund will be replaced by private insurance as soon as it is available. The duration of the compensation scheme is limited to 5 years.

For further information, visit

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1458&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**The EPA has released the revised 2005 Worker Protection Standard “How to Comply” manual.**

The original manual from 1993 is missing some significant WPS revisions, and growers may be out of compliance if they rely on the older manual. You can find out how to get manuals or CD-ROM versions at this website. <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html> We have requested 200 copies to distribute in Georgia.

The 2006 crystal ball says that EPA and state agencies will be paying particular attention to WPS and possible violations. There have been some substantial lawsuits in other states, and attorneys may start to smell money. Additionally, the EPA has made some sizable investments in improving WPS delivery and effectiveness. They will want some return on that investment.

**Check out the new federal Cooperative Extension website.** [www.csrees.usda.gov](http://www.csrees.usda.gov) You will find lots of good information.

**The pH of water can have important effects on the efficacy and stability of pesticides.** With a tip of the cap to Bob Bellinger, here is a wealth of information to help you get the most out of your pesticide dollar.

Effects of Water pH on the Stability of Pesticides

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/pests/IPM1017.pdf>

Effects of Water pH on the Stability of Pesticides

<http://extension.usu.edu/files/agpubs/pesti14.pdf>

About Pesticides: Enhancing Effectiveness

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/pesticides/a\\_7.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/pesticides/a_7.htm)

Water pH Effect on Pesticide Sprays

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=74103&lang=E>

Greenhouse Management Effects of pH on Pesticides and Growth Regulators

[http://www.umass.edu/umext/floriculture/fact\\_sheets/greenhouse\\_management/ph\\_pesticides.htm](http://www.umass.edu/umext/floriculture/fact_sheets/greenhouse_management/ph_pesticides.htm)

Spray Solution pH

<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/apr04/SpraySolutionPH.html>

Insecticides

<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/apr04/InsecticidesPHZ.html>

Fungicides

<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/apr04/FungicidesPHZ.html>

Plant Growth Regulators

<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/apr04/PGRspHZ.html>

Herbicides

<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/apr04/HerbicidesPHZ.html>

Water Quality and Pesticide Performance

[http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/extension/MT\\_PAT/Info/watereffects.htm](http://scarab.msu.montana.edu/extension/MT_PAT/Info/watereffects.htm) 1. Acidity and Alkalinity, 2. Minerals Dissolved in Water, 3. Suspended Soil Particles or "Dirty Water"

The Effect of Water pH on Insecticides

[http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/entupdates/ICG\\_05/e1143w5.htm](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/aginfo/entomology/entupdates/ICG_05/e1143w5.htm)

Effect of Water pH on the Chemical Stability of Pesticides

<http://www.ag.unr.edu/wsj/Wayne/Water%20pH%20FS%2002-36.pdf>

## IPM

**The Fifth National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium, "Delivering on a Promise," will be held in St. Louis, MO, on April 4-6, 2006, at the Adams Mark Hotel.** Symposium sessions will address state of the art strategies and technologies to successfully solve pest problems in agricultural, recreational, natural, and community settings.

IPM and IPM professionals have a problem. Undoubtedly, IPM is the best compromise for minimizing pesticide risks and managing pest populations. We have certainly made great strides to maximize societal benefits from IPM. Unfortunately, we have not done a good job of promoting our successes. To maintain IPM support, we need to make it clear to Tom, Dick, and Harry (TDH) and TDH congressmen that federal dollars are well spent to support IPM.

Use this Symposium opportunity to tell colleagues about your IPM Work! Communication is the cornerstone of IPM implementation. Oral presentations will be delivered throughout the proceedings by invited speakers. Participants are encouraged to make poster presentations that coincide with speaker topics. Several specially designated times will be allocated for poster viewing and discussion with the presenters. After the symposium, posters will be on the 5th IPM Symposium website by topic, along with abstracts. Poster abstracts will be accepted until the space limit is reached. Poster submissions received after the maximum for space is reached will be put onto a waiting list. [Click here for the Poster Abstract Submission Form.](#)

## FQPA/REREGISTRATION

**The EPA has released risk assessments, grower impact assessments, and other documents related to azinphos-methyl.** The Agency is reevaluating the uses that remain for this insecticide. The deadline for comments is February 6, 2006.

You will find the details here: Volume 70, Number 234, Page 72827-72829

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2005/December/Day-07/p23719.htm>

For more information, contact Diane Isbell, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C) at (703) 308-8154 or [isbell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:isbell.diane@epa.gov).

**The EPA has released their risk assessments for the insecticide resmethrin.** Resmethrin is used for indoor pest management, and it has some mosquito control applications. You must comment by January 23.

You will begin your search for details here. <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2005/November/Day-23/p22998.htm>

You can also contact Katie Hall, Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508C), at (703) 308-0166 or [hall.katie@epa.gov](mailto:hall.katie@epa.gov)

It is very important to review the risk assessments for pesticides important to you and provide information. The Agency must often make decisions based on a strict calendar. They will make decisions even if they know the data set is incomplete. Many times the information is lacking because the people who know (e.g., the pesticide users) do not take the time to share their information with EPA even if it would help the users. If the Agency does not know how many food establishments are treated with resmethrin, the risk assessment must assume that 100% of food establishments are treated. This assumption may result in significant exaggeration of the actual risks. Without additional information, the EPA may be forced to make regulations based on the inflated risk assessment.

It is not critical that you read every page of a 200-page document, and you may not have the background to understand all of the assessments. However, you should review the segments of the assessment where you may have critical knowledge, such as how the pesticide is used in the real world. No one wants excessive risks from pesticides, but we do not need additional restrictions that are based on inflated risk assessments that spring from faulty information. Although participation is important, the Agency has not made it very easy. These instructions may help. *Your recent experience putting together Christmas toys may be an advantage.* Click on the link we provided above for the announcement of the availability of the risk assessment (it will not take you to the risk assessment). Note the docket number (e.g., OPP-2005-0284). Next, click on the e-docket link. Then, click the link for [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Then, put your docket number in the search space for “keyword”. Finally, you will see the links that will reveal the actual risk assessment. If you are already frustrated by the directions, contact the person we identified and ask them to send you a copy of the risk assessment. We have already suggested that the comment process is overly cumbersome; you may want to add your voice.

## DON'T DO IT

**Many people may give a wink and a nod to a person using aldicarb to kill nuisance coyote, but it cost a Florida applicator more than \$23,000 in fines.** Three years ago, a man was placing aldicarb in deer carcasses to kill coyotes. The EPA nailed him on at least three violations. He was using aldicarb in a manner inconsistent with label. He was not a certified applicator nor under the supervision of a certified applicator. Finally, he was not storing aldicarb in its original container, and children could have had access to the containers. Having to pay \$23,000 was bad enough, but it could have been much worse.

## MONEY

**We discovered a great web site for federal grant funding:** <http://grants.gov/> You can search through at least 1000 grant programs and \$400 billion worth of funding. Who knows, maybe someone will pay you to investigate exactly how many days you can force a person to eat leftover Thanksgiving turkey. The site is easy to use; give it a try.

***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 706-542-2816.

Or write us:

Department of Entomology

University of Georgia

Athens, GA 30602

E-mail: [bugman@uga.edu](mailto:bugman@uga.edu)

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

<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/entomology/pestnewsletter/newsarchive.html>

Sincerely:



Dr. Paul Guillebeau, Associate Professor & Extension Entomologist