

Look What's Out There

in

Integrated Pest Management

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

EPA Approves New Non-Chemical Control for Corn Rootworm

After an intensive, multi-year scientific analysis, EPA has approved applications submitted by Mycogen Seeds (c/o Dow AgroSciences, LLC) and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. for the use of a new corn plant-incorporated protectant (PIP) designed to control corn rootworm. Corn rootworm is a widespread and destructive insect pest responsible for the single largest use of conventional insecticides in the United States. The new product is the second PIP to offer protection against corn rootworm and is expected to result in a further reduction of chemical insecticide use by growers.

The new corn plant-incorporated protectant, Event DAS-59122-7 Corn, produces its own insecticide within the corn plant derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a naturally occurring soil bacterium. For more information on EPA's regulation of biopesticide products, see: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/> (US-EPA, October 11, 2005).

Chlorpyrifos Pre-Construction Termiticide Products Phase Out on December 31, 2005

As of December 31, 2005, chlorpyrifos products may no longer be distributed, sold, or used for pre-construction termite control. On August 30, EPA released a notice to distributors, retailers,

and pest control operators, reminding them of this deadline and providing an exit strategy for chlorpyrifos pre-construction termite control products. The notice provides information to help sellers and users make informed decisions about managing their existing inventories of these products, including stocks that remain after the end of this year. EPA's goal in issuing the notice is to identify companies or individuals who anticipate having remaining stocks after December 31, and to work with them and their state pesticide regulatory officials sooner rather than later to develop strategies for lawfully depleting these stocks. For example, relabeling and/or stickering the products for other lawful uses already on the label can help deplete any existing stocks. The termination of chlorpyrifos pre-construction termite control use is the result of a June 2000 agreement between EPA and the manufacturers to phase out and cancel most residential uses of chlorpyrifos. Following this agreement, the Agency completed an Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IREED) for the organophosphate pesticide chlorpyrifos in September 2001. For additional information, including the pre-construction termite control use notice, see the Agency's chlorpyrifos web page, <http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/op/chlorpyrifos.htm>. (US-EPA, September 30, 2005).

High expectation for GM-Corn production

At the end of September, industry participants announced that the U.S. corn harvest after this summer's drought may turn 2005 into a hallmark year in the genetic modification of plants. If government predictions are correct, corn production this year will be the second-highest in U.S. history, despite the droughts in major corn-producing states, such as Indiana and Illinois, and corn experts give much credit to the widespread use of corn that has been genetically modified to protect from root worm, making them more resilient to adverse weather conditions. A trader at Alaron Trading Corp, a Chicago-based futures trading firm, was quoted as saying, "This year is the fourth-driest summer in 100 years with over 60% of the U.S. grain belt in a drought, yet we're seeing yields that are far greater than before. Ten years ago without genetically altered corn, (the drought) may have cut production by two to two and a half billion bushels, and that this year, the decline is about 1.2 billion bushels". The last time it was this hot was the summer of 1995. That drought, although more severe, stifled production. The corn price doubled that year, reaching a high of \$5.50 a bushel. But now, corn futures expiring in December closed at just over \$2. A crop analyst at Midland Research Inc. in Chicago was cited as saying that corn is now a completely different product, adding, "Weather now has just a modest impact on the harvest." In 2005, one in three bushels of Illinois corn was genetically modified and more than half of the nation's corn is genetically modified. For fifth-generation farmer Leon Corzine, genetically modified crops have changed his life in more ways than just how intently he listens to the weatherman. Harvests on his soybean and corn farm in Assumption, IL, have grown by 30% in the seven years he has been using the technology. (Medill News Service, 9/30/05, via Chemically Speaking, UFL).

Funding Opportunity

* The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) announces the availability of Farmer/Grower Grants for

commercial farmers (**Due Dec. 6, 2005**) and the Partnership Grants for extension, NRCS staff, and other professionals who work directly with farmers (**Due Nov. 29, 2005**). Grants support on-farm research and demonstration projects that benefit the agricultural community. The application is at <http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/> When you download the application, make sure you also get a copy of "How to Write a SARE Farmer/Grower Grant."

* EPA Region III (DE, MD, VA, WV, PA, DC) is soliciting proposals to help implement the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and to support efforts by the agricultural community to "transition" away from high risk pesticides to the use of less and reduced risk pesticides, alternative methods of pest control and sustainable practices in food production. The program supports grants for education, extension, demonstration, and implementation projects for FQPA transition and reduced risk practices for pest management in agriculture (**Due Nov 30, 2005**).

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Agricultural and Environmental News

- A new study sponsored by the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to compare levels of toxic chemicals in the blood of 500 first-time mothers in the U.S., Mexico and Canada is now fully underway, with blood collection starting among volunteers in Mexico this week and in Canada two weeks ago (Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News: October 13, 2005, Volume 7, Issue 196).
- Less than a decade after commercialization, biotech crops have made a significant, positive impact on the global economy and environment, decreasing pesticide spraying and reducing the environmental footprint associated with pesticide use by 14%, according to a study released this week by the UK-based consulting firm PG Economics (Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News: October 12, 2005, Volume 7, Issue 195).

Did You Know That



Thirty-seven states have reported 1,299 cases of human WNV illness in 2005

In addition, 2,926 dead corvids and 627 other dead birds with WNV infection have been reported from 39 states. WNV infections have been reported in horses from 28 states, three dogs from Minnesota and Nebraska, four squirrels from Arizona, and two unidentified animal species in two states (Arizona and Illinois) (CDC, Sept. 2005).

Events



November 6-9, 2005

ESA Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL

http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/current_meeting/index.htm

November 15-16, 2005

APS Soybean Rust Symposium, Nashville, TN

<http://www.apsnet.org/online/sbr/>

February 14-15, 2006

NEPDN Regional Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Deadline for registration is December 1, 2005.

Please contact Karen Snover-Clift

(kls13@cornell.edu) for more information.

April 4-6, 2006

The Fifth National IPM Symposium, "Delivering on a Promise," will be held in St. Louis, MO at the Adams Mark Hotel. More information is at:

<http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium/>