



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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**What would you do if you discovered an unusual number of dead birds in your neighborhood? If a pet bird dies unexpectedly, is it safe to handle it?** Nearly everyone has seen news features about the link between birds, avian influenza, and West Nile virus. Few of us, however, know how to respond if we find dead birds. Taking the wrong actions could put you at risk for disease or delay discovery of a situation that could lead to a disease outbreak.

The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Natural Resources have released a bulletin to advise people on how to react to the discovery of dead birds. Here are some of the highlights.

- Do not handle dead birds until you consult with a specialist.
  - Dead pet birds - call a veterinarian.
  - Migratory waterfowl, shore birds, or birds of prey – call the Department of Natural Resources in the region where the birds are found.
    - Canadian geese in Georgia are considered resident and nonmigratory.
  - Dead poultry – contact the nearest lab in the Ga. Poultry Lab Network.
  - Other birds (crows, jays, cardinals, etc.) – These birds are unlikely to carry avian influenza, but they may carry West Nile virus. Contact your local Environmental Health office.
  - Previously frozen dead turkeys – consult the nearest wife or mom.
- Avoid skin contact if you must handle dead animals. Use disposable gloves or an inverted plastic bag.
- The entire bulletin, along with all of the telephone numbers, can be found here.  
[http://apps.caes.uga.edu/attachment/deadbirds10\\_27.pdf](http://apps.caes.uga.edu/attachment/deadbirds10_27.pdf)

My family actually had some experience with dead birds in Ireland. As we toured a popular castle ruin, my son and I began to notice dead crows (or possibly jackdaws or rooks). Although no piles of dead birds were evident, there were enough to make it seem like the beginning of a 2<sup>nd</sup> rate horror movie. *Visiting scientist discovers dead birds; he tries in vain to warn the populace.* It did not seem appropriate to point it out to the tour guides in a large group of people. After all, I did not want to be known as the American scientist that single-handedly ruined Irish tourism, but I felt obliged to take some action. Maybe I would be known as the American scientist that saved Ireland from an avian disease outbreak. In the end, it was nothing so dramatic. A privately informed tour guide agreed to tell her boss that a goofy-looking tourist claiming to be a scientist was worried about a few dead birds.

**Big changes are coming to Georgia pesticide education; both private and commercial applicator certification will be improved and more convenient.** Our office and the Georgia Department of Agriculture have teamed up to replace the outdated video that is currently the primary element of private pesticide applicator certification. If you have not seen the training, imagine watching a three-hour video of a slide show. It is about as monotonous as it sounds, and we noticed that many applicators brought pillows to the training. The new private applicator certification is an interactive computer program. After each short segment, the user must correctly answer questions about the material or repeat the segment. At the end, the program will print a certification sheet and record how well the applicator understood the training. The CD-ROM program will be available through local Extension offices, and we have plans to make the training program accessible over the Internet.

For commercial applicators, the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Department of Adult and Technical Education are implementing a new computerized version of the commercial pesticide examination. This computer-based exam will have many benefits for pesticide applicators across the state. Applicators will be able to take the exam as often as needed without waiting for a scheduled exam date. Also, applicators will receive their exam scores instantly with study information for questions they miss on the exam. The Georgia General Assembly provided funds to Athens Technical College to develop the program. Participating technical colleges will charge a nominal fee. Some locations are scheduled to open by the end of November 2006.

Additional information and instructions for using the program will be posted on GDA's website [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov) in the very near future.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

**According to an article by Stanford University professors, some consumers and some food companies are too quick to dismiss food modifications possible through biotechnology.** In general, people are nervous about new technology, particularly if they do not understand it well. As a result, consumers simply say “No” to technology, particularly if it involves food.

Many people are absolutely convinced that food produced without pesticides and biotechnology is better for human health and the environment. Consequently, companies that sell food products often spurn biotechnology. In the real world, however, it is not possible to generalize about pesticides or biotechnology. Both offer tremendous benefits; it is not logical to deprive society of these benefits simply because there are concomitant risks.

If food companies will not utilize biotech products, the economic incentive for research and development dries to a trickle. New products addressing serious problems (e.g., food allergies) are not developed. All the while, many consumers are lounging contentedly in the world because they are absolutely positive that “natural” is better. Keep in mind that organic spinach, not biotech spinach, was the culprit in the recent *E. coli* health scare.

We do not tell people what to think, but we do try to make people think a little more broadly before they make up their mind. Most people will shout “DDT” if you ask which is the worst pesticide of all time. Because DDT is an inexpensive way to help manage malaria mosquitoes, DDT has probably directly saved more human lives than all other pesticides combined.

You will the complete Stanford commentary at <http://www.nature.com/nbt/journal/v24/n9/full/nbt0906-1075.html>

## NEWS YOU CAN USE



Consumers need to be aware that some pesticide products with the same name do not have the same active ingredient. In the picture above, the products (from left to right) contain permethrin, esfenvalerate, and bifenthrin. In the picture below, the products contain triclopyr, 2,4-D/dicamba, etc. and



CAMA.

Different pesticide active ingredients are most appropriate for different uses. Check the active ingredient to be sure you are buying what you really need. I am not sure what marketing scheme that Ortho has in mind; different products with the same name just seems confusing.

If you are interested in stored products, mark April 18-20 on your calendar for the National Stored Product IPM Training Conference at Oklahoma State University. You will find more information at <http://www.ento.okstate.edu/spipm/>.

New supplemental labeling for Danitol (fenpropathrin) allows growers to apply the insecticide/miticide to bushberries, fruiting vegetables, and succulent peas. You can see the supplemental label at <http://www.cdms.net/ldat/ld520022.pdf>.

**A Special Local Need registration will allow growers to use Indar 75WSP (EPA Reg. # 62719-421) in Georgia.** Peach/nectarine growers can use Indar to control blossom blight and fruit brown rot.

**Another SLN (EPA Reg. # 34704-873) permits the use of permethrin in conifer nurseries for control of conifer reproduction weevils.**

**Growers do not often change their opinion of a weed, but soybean farmers may begin to embrace pennycress as an ally.** Pennycress is a common soybean weed in the Midwest, and growers regularly apply herbicides to manage it. However, pennycress seeds have long-chain fatty acids that can be converted to biodiesel fuel. Because pennycress is a winter weed, farmers may be able to double crop pennycress along with soybean. Additionally, crushed seed left over from the oil press inhibited germination of other types of weed seeds. You can read the details of the USDA-ARS research at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/IS/pr/2006/061101.htm>

## **DON'T DO IT**

**Many times (maybe most of the time), people inadvertently or foolishly cause most pesticide risks around the home.** Even Dear Abby has noticed.

*DEAR ABBY: I had to write after reading the letter about "Granny Clair," who reeks of mothballs.*

*My mother's home was also filled with mothballs. All her clothing smelled like mothballs, too. About 15 years ago, she experienced bad vertigo and nausea. One doctor told her it was her inner ear. Another told her it was her eyes.*

*Three years ago, we visited her in winter while the house was all closed up. One morning I awoke with so much dizziness and nausea I could hardly lift my head.*

*When I returned to California, I mentioned it to my doctor, who told me I had been poisoned by the mothballs.*

*Later, my mother had to move to a convalescent home. After six months of living there, her vertigo disappeared. (Arizona Daily Star, 5-10-05)*

From my own experience, I know of a couple who had to move out of their house and live in the camping trailer in the yard for six weeks or more. The wife told me that the husband had discovered some unwanted insects in their new house. He "nuked" them with every pesticide at his disposal, with the underlying philosophy that more is always better. After these treatments, the husband was unable to stay in the house without severe respiratory distress. The wife was also affected to a lesser degree. I was unable to tell them when it would be safe to move back inside. With no one inside the house, the pests were probably moving back in first.

Only use pesticides indoors when it is unavoidable. This publication may help.

[http://www.ent.uga.edu/ipm/homeowner\\_ipm.htm](http://www.ent.uga.edu/ipm/homeowner_ipm.htm). NEVER use more than the pesticide label allows, and do not use outdoor pesticides indoors.

## **FEDERAL NEWS**

**The EPA has been considering the warranties offered on pesticide products. In some cases, the warranties are misleading, confusing, or just plain wrong.** Companies often write warranties to protect

themselves rather than to help the consumer. It is common language in warranties for the company to claim no responsibility if something goes wrong, such as “Buyer assumes all risks and liability associated with the use of the product.” However, a company is not absolved from all blame just because it is written on the package.

These two areas seem to cause a lot of the problems.

1. Warranty statements should not detract from the directions or other required label language. For example, statements that the product may not work if applied by the directions are contradictory. “Manufacturer makes no warranty regarding the fitness of this product for any use.” In other words, this product may be useless, but it is not our fault.
2. Language that states or implies that the user assumes all risk and liability associated with use of the product. “Company disclaims any liability whatsoever for special, incidental, or consequential damages resulting from use of this product.” In other words, no matter what happens, we are not responsible.

The company attorneys know that these statements offer little legal protection in the event that the company is at fault. However, they also know that many consumers will believe the disclaimers and not pursue legitimate claims if the product fails or damage/injury results.

The EPA is taking a closer look at label warranty language and asking companies to revise the language when necessary.

You can find out more at this site <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/warranty.pdf>.

If you feel that a pesticide product did not perform as advertised or if a proper application resulted in injury or damage, do not assume that the label language keeps you from seeking redress from the pesticide company.

*Just remember that I assume no responsibility for any of the information that appears in this newsletter, regardless of whether it comes from a legitimate source or if I just made it up.*

**The EPA extended the comment period for reregistration of the arsenical herbicides (MSMA, DSMA, etc.) until December 13, 2006.** If you wish to comment, follow this link <http://cfpub.epa.gov/pesticides/comments.cfm>

**The EPA has issued a schedule for the registration review program, the periodic review of all registered pesticides mandated by section 3(g) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).** The schedule takes effect on October 10, 2006, the effective date of the registration review program.

This schedule is a timetable for opening dockets for the first four years of the registration review program and shows how EPA plans to begin meeting its statutory goal of reviewing all registered pesticides every 15 years. EPA expects a total of about 676 registration review cases, comprising about 1,075 pesticide active ingredients, to undergo registration review. To review each of these pesticides every 15 years, the Agency plans to make decisions on 45 or more registration review cases (about 70 pesticide active ingredients) each year.

[http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration\\_review/schedule.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/schedule.htm)

# HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has petitioned EPA to cancel all tolerances for the organophosphate insecticide dichlorvos.** The NRDC also feels that the pesticide registrant was too closely involved with the dichlorvos decision. Many people have suspected the risks associated with this chemical for many years. When I worked for EPA (when I had dark hair and more of it), a colleague worked extensively on dichlorvos. The NRDC claims that the EPA recommended banning household use of dichlorvos in a 1995 preliminary report.

If you want to send a comment to EPA regarding dichlorvos, visit <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2006/October/Day-11/p16484.htm>

If you want to read what NRDC has to say, go to <http://www.nrdc.org/OnEarth/06fal/dispatches.asp>

I do not always agree with the NRDC party line, but I can see their point in this case. If EPA did recommend banning dichlorvos more than ten years ago, the public deserves a darn good explanation about the Agency's lack of action.

**The Washington Toxics Coalition has petitioned EPA to cancel tolerances of carbaryl (Sevin).** According to the Coalition, sales of carbaryl skyrocketed when the EPA banned chlorpyrifos and diazinon from household markets; carbaryl levels in streams reportedly increased as well. The Coalition's main concern seems to be the impact of carbaryl on aquatic invertebrates (aka fish food) and the salmon population.

<http://www.watoxics.org/pressroom/press-releases/pr-2005-05-11/> carries the Washington Coalition story.

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2006/October/Day-13/p16905.htm> is open for comments to EPA.

**The USDA is recognizing the growth and demand for organic production; the Department awarded \$4.5 million in grants to 13 states.**

The fiscal year 2006 grants are being awarded to the following:

- Cornell University, \$374,627, "Optimizing Biological Nitrogen Fixation in Organic Cropping Systems for Sustainable Nutrient Management"
- Washington State University and Idaho State University, \$690,557, "Developing Wheat Varieties for Organic Agricultural Systems"
- University of Georgia and University of Arkansas, \$313,515, "Out-of-Season Small Fruit Production for Improved Profitability of Organic Farming"
- University of Wisconsin, \$374,478, "Crop Plant Nutrition and Insect Response in Organic Field Crop Production: Linking Farmer Observation to University Research and Extension"
- University of Vermont, University of Arkansas, and University of Maine, \$666,839, "Using New Alternatives to Enhance Adoption of Organic Apple Production through Integrated Research Education and Extension"
- University of Minnesota, \$615,840, "Beyond Corn and Soybean: Alternative Organic Crops for the Upper Midwest"
- University of Florida and University of Georgia, \$364,156, "Organic Production of Blueberries in Southeastern United States: Development of Best Management Practices"

- Clemson University, \$431,203, “Organic Farming of Marine Shrimp: A Holistic Approach to Management of Feeds & Microbial Dynamics”
- Ohio State University, \$545,102, “Transition Strategies that Control Perennial Weeds and Build Soil”
- University of Florida, \$226,139, “Crop Diversification Complexity and Pest and Beneficial Organism Communities in Humid Tropical and Sub-Tropical Climatic Regimes”



**Watch out for brown widow spiders.** According to several reports, brown widow populations have increased in size and range in coastal areas of the Southeast. Some people have found large numbers of spiders around their homes, commonly appearing in children’s outdoor toys. There are also reports of the spiders appearing in play areas of fast food restaurants.

The bad news is that a brown widow bite can be as dangerous as the more familiar black widow. Additionally, the brown widow is not as readily identifiable as the black widow because brown widow coloration and patterns are variable. The good news is that brown widows are usually timid and do not inject as much venom as the black widow. This article from Florida is very informative.

<http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/IPM/BrownWidow.htm>

Sanitation is the best way to manage spider populations in the house or garage. My wife refers to the shop-vac as the snout of god, and she dramatically reduces the spider population when the webs become too common. Additionally, eliminating clutter reduces the number of sites for the spiders to build webs. Always wear gloves when moving clutter, wood, stones, etc. that may hide spiders. Applications of residual pesticides can keep spiders from building in the same areas.

To protect children, inspect their outdoor toys regularly. Look into the legs of plastic tables and other similar places that may harbor spiders. Pesticides should not be used in or around children’s play areas, but you can use caulk or other materials to seal crevices attractive to spiders. Teach your children not to stick their fingers into cracks or other places they cannot see.

**North Carolina has passed legislation that will require every school to implement integrated pest management (IPM) in five years.** The IPM rule is part of a larger bill that aims to reduce children’s exposure to a wide range of dangerous substances, including diesel fumes, mercury, and mold. Although the bill had broad support from children’s health groups, the specific IPM regulations have not been established. In some other states, the IPM requirements were impractical and did little to actually reduce children’s risks.

In Georgia, we encourage voluntary adoption of IPM in Schools, and we feel like we are reaching a tipping point. After all, there is little or no downside. Children are better protected. Pest populations are managed effectively. School liability is reduced. Pest control companies need to recognize this new market. We are working with schools to help them establish pest control contracts that deliver IPM and exclude companies that are unwilling or unable to provide an IPM program.

## FQPA/REREGISTRATION

**The comment period for methyl bromide commodity uses is open until November 24 at**

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2006/September/Day-29/p16063.htm>

*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.

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Sincerely:



Dr. Paul Guillebeau, Professor & Extension Entomologist