Federal Nursery Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

I recently received a copy of the Draft EIS for the USDA Forest Service Placerville Nursery, which reminded me of something that I had been meaning to do. The Forest Service has published an exhaustive EIS document for each of their nurseries across the US. And, while it is true that much of this information is site- and species-specific, some of this could be useful to other state and private nurseries. For example, each EIS contains the latest information on the environmental, economic, and social conse- quences of using common nursery pesticides (Table 6). In addition to extensive tabular datal, each EIS discusses specific effects, and develops a list of control alternatives. In fact, the entire procedure by which the federal nurseries have developed their EIS's is a good example of how this rather complicated process can be accomplished, and could serve as a model for other nurseries.

So, if you would like a copy of an EIS, contact the federal nursery nearest to you. If you are not sure of their location, let me know and I'll give you their address.

Table 6. Acute Toxicity Classification of Pesticides used at the Placerville Nursery compared to other common chemicals

Toxicity Category*	Pesticide or Other Chemical	Oral LD$_{50}$ for Rates (mg/kg)	Equivalent Human Dose
IV - Very Slight		5.000 to 50.000	> 1 pint
	Sugar	30,000	
	Potassium salts of fatty acids	16,900	
	Ethyl alcohol	13,700	
	Benomyl	> 10, 000	
	Oxyfluorfen	> 5,000	
III - Slight (Caution)		50 to 5.000	1 oz to 1 pint
	Glyphosate	4,320	
	Table Salt	3,750	
	Sethoxydim	2,676	
	Bleach	2,000	
	Aspirin	1,700	
	Acephate	866	
	Thiram	560	
II - Moderate (Warning)		50 to 500	1 tsp. to 1 oz.
	Esfenvelerate	458	
	Malathion	370	
	Dazomet	320	
	Carbaryl	270	
	Diazinon	250	
	Methyl bromide	214	
	Caffeine	200	
	Dimethoate	150	
	DDT	100	
I - Severe (Danger/Poison)		0 to 50	< 1 tsp.
	Nicotine	50	
	Chloropicrin	37.5	

*Categories, signal words and LD$_{50}$ ranges based on EPA labeling system