

## Implications Of Current Pesticide Regulations For The Nursery Manager

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No doubt all of you are familiar with the controversy that has been going on concerning pesticides and [heir uses. Those that have received the most attention are DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons, 2-4-5-T, and mercury compounds. These materials are commonly used in nursery practice. Those engaged in nursery management must be aware of the hazards involved in using these materials and take every precaution to reduce or eliminate possible detrimental effects.

Recently there has been an announcement of a new federal super agency known as the Environmental Protection Agency. This agency, if formulated, will take over the determination of pesticide tolerances that are now a part of the Food and Drug Administration and the registration of pesticides which have been a function of the Department of Agriculture. If this agency functions as now planned, you will find that regulation of pesticides will become more stringent. Registration will become more difficult for the chemical companies to obtain. Therefore, costs will rise. Presently, it takes from 5 to 7 years from formulation to the time a pesticide is registered. The cost of such an undertaking is estimated to be \$5 to \$7 million dollars. The future does not indicate less expensive materials for you to use.

In the future nurserymen will have to:

1. Look more objectively at their use patterns and decide whether a pesticide is really needed.
2. Use only materials that are safe, effective, and registered for a particular pest. In the Northeastern Area of State and Private Forestry, the Division of Forest Pest Control, in cooperation with the Division of Cooperative Forest Management will be able to keep you informed of current federal pesticide registrations. Nurserymen are also encouraged to check with their state pesticide review board, wherever one exists. It is better to do your own regulation than to have others do it for you.
3. Be willing to use and to pay the added costs of safer but perhaps less effective pest control methods.

While I am on this subject, I would like to emphasize the necessity of a strong SAFETY PROGRAM in the use of pesticides in your nurseries. Be sure your personnel are familiar with the potential hazards of the pesticides they are using. Have them read the labels and adhere to instructions. Mark containers so that chemicals are clearly identified. Store chemicals under lock and key.

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