

## DISEASE CONTROL AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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at the 1992 Southern Forest Nursery Conference  
July 22-23, 1992

There are many factors that influence disease control practices in the forestry nursery. We will discuss some of these factors and how they might influence our disease control decision making. The forest nursery industry is limited in pest control alternatives available today because of economics and profitability of chemical companies to register materials for such small acreage, and environmental impact concerns. The nursery industry, although small acreage in itself, supports a massive commercial forestry industry. In the future, it is going to be up to you as plant producers to convince those industries that depend on you that they should help you, and in turn, you will be there to supply them.

Along with issues such as the elimination of chemicals for pest control such as Methyl Bromide, there are other concerns that are outlined in the 1990 Farm Bill. The next few minutes, I will give you an overview of the proposed record keeping requirements as detailed in the Federal Register. For years EPA has required certified commercial applicators to keep specific types of records. Georgia, and the rest of the states, has rules for record keeping by commercial applicators. The 1990 Farm Bill expanded that requirement to apply to private applicators as well, and it charged USDA to implement these requirements. After two years the USDA has published their proposed record keeping ruling. This is a ruling and it is not yet a law. Now is the time for interested parties to provide input to USDA to finalize the language. For the moment, regulations for commercial applicators as legislated by the state will be largely unchanged with one exception: in the proposed ruling, commercial applicators would be required to provide a copy of restricted use pesticide records within thirty days of the RUP application to the person for whom the pesticide application was made, and this person must keep the records for two years. Information contained in these records should be 1) Brand or product name, formulation, and the EPA registration number of the restricted use pesticide that was applied. 2) Total amount and the rate of application of the restricted use pesticide. 3) Address or location, the size of area treated, the target pest, and the crop, commodity or stored product to which the restricted use pesticide was applied. 4) Month, day and year on which the restricted use pesticide application occurred. 5) Name, address, and certification number of the certified applicator who applied or supervised the application of the restricted use pesticide. In most cases you should be already keeping this type of information, however, you might not be keeping the EPA registration numbers or some of the other information I just mentioned. The latest word is that there should be a final ruling in place for the 1993 growing season.

We have to deal with these pest control decisions and also those of environmental quality. You as an industry, and individually, I am sure want to be known as stewards of our environment. There are ground water concerns which should be addressed at each one of your nursery sites and what we are doing today with reference to trying to protect water quality might not be what



we will be doing five years from now. In most cases I think it is very important for us to promote the best management practices, keep in contact with those individuals in our state forestry commissions, University researchers, as well as the University's Cooperative Extension Service, which will pass along educational information as it becomes available. Ground water protection includes reducing or minimizing movement of pesticides, as well as fertilizers into the ground water. In many of your sites it is very important because of the sandy nature of the soils in your nurseries, to follow label recommendations precisely. Do not mix or load pesticides or fertilizers next to the well, but a distance of at least 100 feet from the well should be sufficient in most cases. Check irrigation pumps, back flow valves, as well as quantity of water used. Be sure that the containers which you generate by using pesticides as well as fertilizers are disposed of properly and in accordance to the law. One incident of improperly handling pesticides or improper disposal may generate unwarranted attention to the entire industry.

Endangered species is a great concern in Georgia. These designated plants, animals, reptiles, fish, etc. are primarily found in remote areas which are part of our reforested land. I don't think all the answers have been formulated. Right now we have more questions than ever before about do's and don't's. Realistically, we don't know if we do something today how it may influence a species ten or fifteen years from now. We must strive to evolve our management practices with the evolving environment around us. If you acknowledge this, then you can be part of the pest management process. We all want to be part of the decision making, and don't want to leave it to, what we consider, as those that are more knowledgeable of law than the business of growing trees. Know your pest management practices that provide the best environmental management in your area.

Change is a fact of life. If man had been around when the dinosaurs became extinct, who would have gotten the blame?