

Using Pesticides. A complete guide to safe, effective spraying

BCPC Publication Sales, Bear Farm, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 5QE. Tel. +44 (0)118 934 2727. Fax +44 (0)118 934 1998. Email publications@bcpc.org. www.bcpc.org. ISBN 1 901396 01 0. £18.50 in UK (£21 elsewhere).

This revised full-colour edition of a popular handbook includes all the latest advice from the 'Green' and 'Orange' Codes of Practice, and a new section on buffer zones and LERAP (Local Environmental Risk Assessment of Pesticides). There is also a greater emphasis on integrated crop management and quality assurance matters. The disposal section has also been extensively revised to take into account the Groundwater Regulations and the Duty of Care Regulations.

The guide first defines what is meant by the word pesticide and provides a resume of how these important chemicals work. It then reviews the key stages in planning pesticide use before outlining the legal controls and then moving on to look at how information on the product label can be used. Comprehensive sections on keeping people safe (including the requirements of the Health and safety at Work Act and the COSHH regulations), pesticide application and protecting the environment (covering the key requirements of FEPA and the various water protection legislation) follow. Separate sections deal with disposal, storage, transport and records. Finally there is a section on emergency procedures.

This new edition of the guide should again prove very popular as a training aid for *Safe Use of Pesticide* courses and those taking the BASIS certificate in crop protection exams, or involved in quality assurance schemes

Odd book title?

The British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) won the 1999 Oddest Book Title of the Year for its title "Weeds in a Changing World" in a competition run by the Diagram book design group, beating the favourite "Male Genitalia of Butterflies of the Balkan Peninsula, with a Checklist" published by Pensoft. The runner-up was Derek Hutchinson's "Guide to Eskimo Rolling" (A&C Black), while third place went to "Procrastination and Task Avoidance: Theory, Research and Treat-

ment" (Plenum). There has been much debate about whether the BCPC title is odd enough to merit such an award. To a weed scientist, certainly, there's nothing odd about it at all!

Biotechnology appraisals

Two organisations have recently published well-written appraisals of this controversial area for a wide readership:

- "Biotechnology in Crop Protection: A BCPC Appraisal of Progress and Prospects". This report published by the British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) and distributed to all the delegates at the Brighton Crop Protection Conference last November, has sections dealing with genetic modification in crop protection (potential benefits and the public debate), biotechnology in crop protection, risk assessment and regulation. The report gives details of BCPC's contributions to the biotechnology debate and places where further information can be found.
- "Genetically Modified Food. All you ever wanted to know about GM foods but were afraid to ask". This factsheet, published by the Institute of Biology, seeks to answer the many questions which the public have about this subject in a balanced scientific manner, illustrated with several pictures. Copies can be obtained from the Institute of Biology, 20 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DZ. Tel. 0171 581 8333. Fax 0171 823 9409. Email press.office@iob.org. <http://www.iob.org>.

International Crop Protection: Achievements & Ambitions (Proceedings No. 73)

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These are proceedings of a symposium, chaired by John Terry, held at the Brighton Metropole Hotel, UK, on 15 November 1999. At the start of a new millennium the

symposium reflected on the scientific, technical and socio-economic achievements in crop protection. Case studies from around the world are examined where weeds, insects or diseases have had a special historic importance, and lessons for the future are explored.

Hans Dobson and Joyce major discuss the management of locusts, a pest that has been known to mankind for millennia and still threatens parts of the world. The social dimension of pest management is addressed in a paper by Hilary Warburton and Adrienne martin that articulates the 'sustainable livelihoods' approach by development agencies for analysing poverty and developing strategies for its alleviation. Vic Jordan examines integrated pest management and integrated crop management, drawing attention to the need for environmentally benign methods in the future. Jill Lenné and Dave Wood look at vegetational biodiversity, noting the improvements to pest management that can be derived from planned diversity. Genetic modification of crops, currently a subject of much heated debate, is one of the techniques addressed by Paul Teng in his review of the current and future importance of biotechnology in crop protection. Finally, John Russell examines the roles of governments in crop protection research and development, giving examples where national, regional and international institutions have had an impact on pests and their management.

Safe and effective use of crop protection products in developing countries

J. Atkin and K M Leisinger (Ed.) CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxon, UK, OX10 8DE. 192 pp. ISBN 0 85199 471 7. £35.00 (US\$65.00).

This book presents and discusses the results of a 7-year research programme that examined the best way to encourage farmers in different developing countries to use pesticides safely and effectively. Sponsored by the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, the aim of the study was to investigate how to reduce crop losses, while minimising harmful effects to human health and the environment. India, Mexico and Zimbabwe were chosen as the three project countries, as they are similar in economic development, but have widely disparate sociocultural environments and agricultural practices.