

CUTT

Spring 2000 • Volume Eleven • Number One

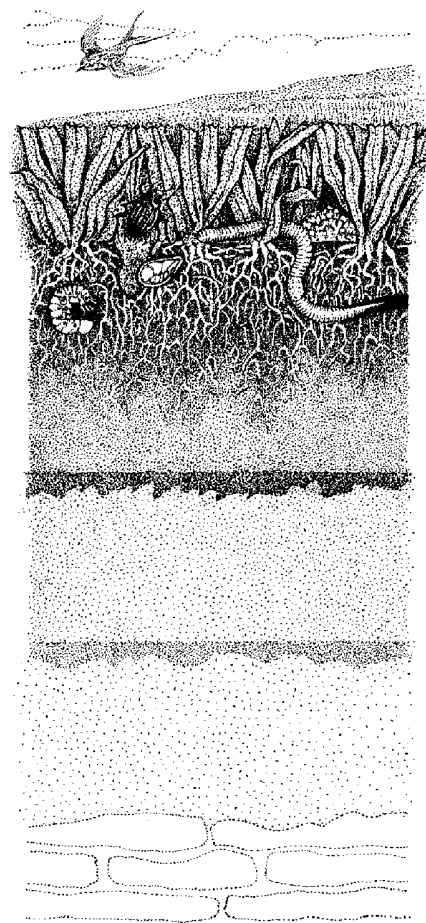
Legal and Effective Early Season Grub Control

Turfgrass managers are becoming aware of the possible impact of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), a new federal law governing pesticide usage in the United States. Turf managers ignored the FQPA, enacted to determine how much pesticide residue will be tolerated on agricultural products, because at first reading this bill seems to focus on agricultural commodities rather than turf. However, two provisions of this law may have profound effects on the availability of older organophosphate and carbamate insecticides that are traditional products used in turf insect management programs. ■

The first issue is that the cost of reevaluating older products falls not on the government but on the chemical companies that wish to manufacture and market these products. This reevaluation expense that may cost millions of dollars may not be economically feasible for pesticides that are not used on major agricultural commodities such as corn or cotton. Moreover, the EPA judges the impact of any one pesticide over all of the commodities it might be applied to including ornamental plantings. To protect their products to their largest markets, chemical companies may voluntarily give up registrations on minor crops to lower the overall usage of a particular product. Minor use insecticides, including many insecticides used primarily by the turf and landscape market, may not be unsafe but could be dropped by chemical companies for economic reasons.

The second issue is an acknowledgment of the suspected increased sensitivity of small children to pesticides. The EPA will most likely decrease the residue tolerance on all agricultural crops by a factor of ten to ensure the safety of children. Chemicals that were considered safe under the older guidelines may not pass the new, more stringent tolerances. Products that are not considered safe for major agricultural commodities might not be supported for registration for minor crop used by chemical companies.

Although turf managers are rightly concerned about the possible loss of insecticides that they have depended upon for many years for pest control, the Food Quality Protection Act provides for a streamlined (less costly and less delay) registration process for certain environmentally-friendly products. These products are



This Times

1. *Early Season Grub Control*
2. *Short Cutts*
 - Golfweek selects Rossi
 - New NYSTA grant
 - New IPM grant
 - Golf and wildlife book
3. *Scanning the Journals*
 - Managing thatch
 - Dandelion control
8. *Plant Parasitic Nematodes*
12. *Healthy Businesses*
14. *Diagnostic Clinic Website*
13. *Turfgrass ShortCUTT*
16. *Grub-X Alert*

continued on page 4