

PESTICIDE REGULATION:
FROM GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL AND NURSERY PERSPECTIVES

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Forest tree nursery managers face many problems in use of pesticides, most of which do not affect other pesticide users to the extent that forest nursery managers are forced to work with.

Many forest tree nursery managers are now, or soon will be, dealing with the following pesticide related problems:

1. Forest tree nurseries deal with a high value - low volume crop.

Tree nurseries have a high dollar value per acre, but a very small number of total acres compared to other high value crops. The potential liability from a pesticide use on a tree crop cannot be made up for in volume sales of a chemical on that crop. Industry cannot make enough profit from selling a pesticide to forest tree nurseries to cover the risk of a lawsuit concerning use of the pesticide. Therefore, very few chemical companies are, or will be, interested in registering a forest tree nursery use on their pesticide label.

No money is available from industry or the government for research into nursery management problems because of their overall low economic value based on a total acreage basis.

2. Urbanization around forest tree nurseries.

Many tree nurseries are being surrounded by housing developments. This presents many special problems concerning pesticide use in the nurseries.

- a) Chemical Phobia.
- b) Public fear of the "unknown".
 - 1) cancer / chemicals.
 - 2) birth defects - miscarriages / chemicals.
 - 3) Agent Orange / herbicides.
- c) Chemical drift.
- d) Chemical smell.
- e) Ground-water contamination.
 - 1) especially with wells nearby.
 - 2) potable water tolerances for pesticides.
- f) Weeders vs. use of herbicides.

3. Forest tree nurseries are considered forest areas rather than agriculture / farming areas.

Most people consider forest tree nurseries as part of the forest and expect that they should be "natural" and not farmed or intensively managed. The public does not consider -chemical use a normal use in the forest while tolerating pesticide use in farming practices. We need to promote tree nursery management as a farming practice not as a forest crop.

4. State Pesticide notification and posting laws.

Many of these laws do more harm than good when they call attention to pesticide uses near urban centers, without a pesticide knowledgeable public. At the present time the public fear of pesticides is not rational.

5. Reduced State budgets.

This is a special problem for state forest tree nurseries that do not have the money to hire weeders nor the political ok to use herbicides in an anti-pesticide public environment.

As you can see, and as many of you know from your own experiences, pesticide regulations are seriously affecting tree nursery management. The panel of speakers with us today will help you understand what is going on in this fast changing field of pesticide regulations. We will explore pesticide regulations from four different viewpoints:

- 1) How risky are pesticides?
- 2) How much should government regulate?
- 3) What goes into a pesticide registration.
- 4) **How are forest tree nurseries being affected today by pesticide regulations.**