

Agrichemical and Environmental News

A Monthly Report on Pesticides and Related Environmental Issues

June 2002 • Issue No. 194 • <http://aenews.wsu.edu>

It's Not Nice to Ignore the Queen

**Jane M. Thomas, Pesticide Notification Network
Coordinator, WSU**



I was astounded, simply astounded, to discover that I, the Queen Bee of Labels (that's QBL to you), am being ignored. While I am sure my Loyal Followers are not ignoring me, I have discovered that this is not the case in some circles. No one likes to be ignored, but the QBL finds it Royally Repugnant. It is bad enough that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (that's EPA to you) has been dragging their feet, neither appointing nor anointing me to my Rightful Regal place as Queen Bee of Labels (see "If I Were the Queen of Labels," *AENews* May 2000, Issue No. 169). This alone has stretched my normally expansive patience. Recently, however, it has come to light that EPA is once again ignoring the QBL and that others are now following their lead. Merciful Monarch that I am, I can forgive innocent ignorance. What I cannot abide is willful ignore-ance. The queenly ire might not have been so acute had all these recent incidents not occurred in such close succession (that's succession NOT, heaven forbid, secession).

The first and second offenses were committed by Sipcam Agro. Loyal Royal Readers will recall that this company was the focus of some discussion in December 2000, Issue No. 176 of this fine publication in my article "The QBL Gets Graphic." Sipcam Agro received quite a dressing down and was the first nominee in the new Litigious Layout Non-Anom* category. You might

* In an ongoing effort to point out the aggravating, confusing, and erroneous content of pesticide labels, the QBL developed the "Non-Anom" awards. Since such errors are so very common, QBL decided they cannot be considered "anomalies," but instead are "non-anomalies," or Non-Anoms. To experience the logic of Non-Anoms in mind-numbing detail, see "QBL II: No, It's Not a Boat," in *AENews* July 2000, Issue No. 171.



Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Washington Counties.
Cooperative Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Cooperative Extension office.

FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTION OR CONTACT INFORMATION, SEE END OF ARTICLE.



VII. Crop-Specific Information

Corn

Tank Mixes

Laddok S-12 + Atrazine
Laddok S-12: 1.33-2.33 pints per acre
Atrazine: 0.75-1 pound per acre
Oil Concentrate: 1 pint per acre

atrazine will provide residual weed control and suppress giant, and yellow foxtail. Atrazine products compatible with **Laddok S-12**, **AAtrax® 4L** and **AAtrax® Nine-O** herbicides as well as other similar formulations containing atrazine.

5. Tank Mix Rates for Laddok S-12 + Atrazine

Laddok S-12	Atrazine ¹
1.33 pints per acre	1 pound per acre
1.67 pints per acre	1 pound per acre
2.33 pints per acre	0.75 pound per acre

¹ See Section VI, General Restrictions and Limitations for maximum amounts of atrazine allowable per season.

SWEET CORN:
 Consult your local agricultural extension specialist for information on sweet corn varieties that are tolerant to this tank mix.
Laddok S-12 + Banvel[®]
Laddok S-12: 1.33-2.33 pints per acre
Banvel: up to 16 ounces (0.5 pound a.i.) per acre
UAN Solution: 4 pints per acre
 or **AMS:** 2.5 pounds per acre

For use on field corn only. This tank mix may be applied for additional or improved control of bindweed (field and hedge), Canada thistle, honeyvine milkweed, common lambsquarters, morningglories, pigweed (red-root and smooth), ragweed (common and giant), waterhemp (common and tall), and wild sunflower.

Tank Mix Specific Restrictions and Limitations
 Do not add other additives to this tank mix.
 Follow the application procedures on the **Banvel** label if applying near sensitive crops.
 Do not apply this tank mix at more than 40 psi.
Laddok S-12 + Bladex[®] 90 DF
Laddok S-12: 1.33-2.33 pints per acre
Bladex: 1.67 pounds per acre

For use on field and silage corn only to control major troublesome broadleaf weeds and small annual grasses and to reduce the potential triazine carryover into rotational crops. Annual grasses controlled by a **Laddok S-12 + Bladex 90 DF** tank mix include: crabgrass, fall panicum, giant foxtail, goosegrass, green foxtail, stinkgrass (Indian lovegrass), witchgrass, and yellow foxtail. Refer to **Table 1** for rate and timing for

recall that the good and true staff of Washington State University's Pesticide Information Center (PIC), took it upon themselves to present a suggestion for how this label could have been laid out that would have alleviated the problems presented by Sipcarn Agro's layout. (And not to flog a flagging horse but the proposed layout was darn good.)

**Old and Offending
Laddok S-12 Label**
 EPA Reg. No. 7969-100-60063

Earlier this spring, while regally rummaging through some registration materials, I was fascinated to see that Sipcarn Agro was adding a new registration in 2002 for another product, also called Laddok S-12, this time designated by EPA Registration Number 60063-18. (The label discussed in the December 2000 issue of the *AENews*, also Laddok S-12, carries EPA Registration Number 7969-100-60063.) I was delighted with this turn of events, sure that Sipcarn Agro, so embarrassed by the faux pas of their old label had decided to scrap the whole thing and register a new product altogether. I quickly flipped to the tank mix portion of the label, aglow with expectant gratification, ready to be so pleased that my gentle advice, so generously given, was appreciated and acted upon. Imagine the scene when I opened the label and found that the tank mix text was laid out EXACTLY as it had been in the Old and Offending Laddok S-12 label. By virtue of good breeding and determined dignity, I was able to stifle the scream that arose within. Barely.

Luckily the more recent pesticide registration materials often include e-mail addresses for the registrant's appropriate contact person. In this case the Registration Manager was listed as one Jon M. Gehring. After a short "time-out" to compose myself, I penned this restrained note:

My Dear Mr. Gehring,

I was very interested to see that Sipcarn Agro was registering a new Laddok S-12 label in Washington since I had had such a good time making fun of the layout of

Agrichemical and Environmental News

the old label. (See "The QBL Gets Graphic" in the December issue of the Agrichemical and Environmental News:

<http://www.aenews.wsu.edu/Dec00AENews/Dec00AENews.htm#anchor1302304>


.) Imagine how regally disheartened I was to see that the layout of this new label is just as lousy as the layout of the old label. You have not been attentive to the Word on High from HAH The Queen Bee of Pesticide Labels (QBL to you) and the QBL is royally disappointed. Please explain yourself! I can only imagine that you received some unfortunate legal council that convinced you Sipcarn Agro would be liable for Royalties had you done the right thing and used our suggested (corrected) layout. I hope that you have now realized the error of your ways.

Reigning from afar,
The QBL

This missive was sent March 12 and there is, as yet, no reply on the horizon. As you can see, Sipcarn Agro has done the unthinkable and has ignored the QBL not only once but twice. I believe that this puts Sipcarn Agro at the top of the QBL's Wildly Wayward Registrants list. Congratulations. (I had for a brief moment contemplated calling this the Really Rasty Registrants list but upon reflection determined that this was, sadly, beneath me.)

RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE
DUE TO GROUND AND SURFACE WATER CONCERNS

For retail sale to and use only by certified applicators or persons under their direct supervision, and only for those uses covered by the certified applicator's certificate. This product is a restricted use herbicide due to ground and surface water concerns. Users must read and follow all precautionary statements and instructions in order to minimize potential for atrazine to reach ground and surface water.



SIPCAM AGRO USA, INC.

Laddok® S-12
Herbicide

New and Offending
Laddok S-12 Label
EPA Registration Number 60063-18

formatic

YES

atrazine

1 pint per acre

1.67 per acre

1 per acre

SWEET CORN:
Consult your local agricultural extension specialist for information on sweet corn varieties that are tolerant to this tank mix.

Laddok S-12 + Banvel®

Laddok S-12: 1.33-2.33 pints per acre
Banvel: up to 16 ounces (0.5 pound a.i.) per acre
UAN Solution: 4 pints per acre
or **AMS:** 2.5 pounds per acre

For use on field corn only. This tank mix may be applied for additional or improved control of bindweed (field and hedge), Canada thistle, honeyvine milkweed, common lambsquarters, morningglories, pigweed (redroot and smooth), ragweed (common and giant), waterhemp (common and tall), and wild sunflower.

Tank Mix Specific Restrictions and Limitations
Do not add other additives to this tank mix.
Follow the application procedures on the Banvel herbicide label if applying near sensitive crops.
Do not apply this tank mix at more than 40 psi.

Laddok S-12 + Bladex® 90 DF

Laddok S-12: 1.33-2.33 pints per acre
Bladex: 1.67 pounds per acre

For use on field and silage corn only to control major troublesome broadleaf weeds and small annual grasses and to reduce the potential atrazine carryover into rotational crops. Annual grasses controlled by a Laddok S-12 + Bladex 90 DF herbicide tank mix include: crabgrass, fall panicum, giant foxtail, goosegrass, green foxtail, stinkgrass (Indian love-

Table 5. Tank Mix Rates for Laddok S-12 + Atrazine

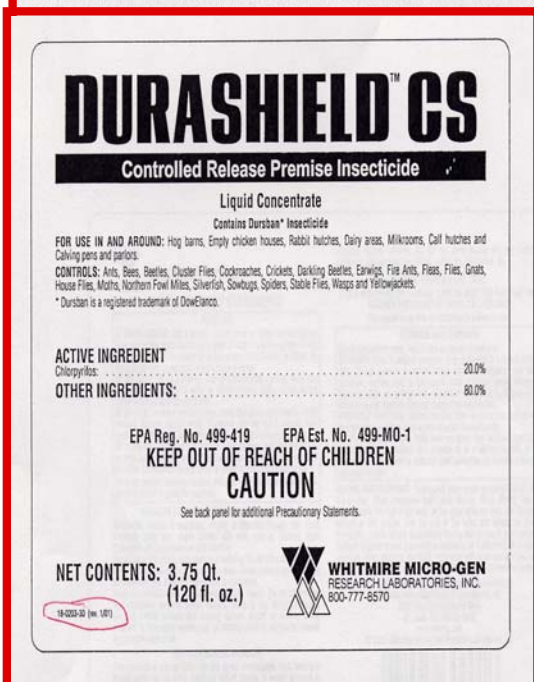
Laddok S-12	Atrazine ¹
1.33 pints per acre	1 pound per acre
1.67 pints per acre	1 pound per acre
2.33 pints per acre	0.75 pound per acre

¹ See Section VI. General Restrictions and Limitations for maximum amounts of atrazine allowable per season.

The second ignore-ant offender to which I would draw your attention is none other than Whitmire Micro-Gen. The label in question is Durashield CS. The PIC office received a revised copy of this label late in 2001 forwarded to us from the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The label copy from Whitmire Micro-Gen included copies of what appears to be both the container label and the full label containing all of the use directions. Both carry the notation "rev. 1/01." The odd thing about this label, noticed by the PIC's ever-sharp Database Coordinator Charlee Parker, is that the full printed label is marked as a Restricted Use Pesticide while the copies of the container label carry no such marking.



I took it upon myself to call Whitmire Micro-Gen's registration folks and ended up speaking to a Darla Becker. Her response to the QBL was really rather interesting. First she was **sure** that I was in error even after I explained that I was looking at label copies that Whitmire Micro-Gen had submitted to the state of Washington for registration



concentrate

purposes late in 2001. Next she was **sure** I must be looking at an out-of-date label; my response was the same. Next she was **sure** that there really wasn't a problem because the product was a Restricted Use Pesticide and the container labels, she was **sure**, did carry the RUP statement. For the fourth and final time I explained what it was that I was holding in my hand and why I was concerned. Ms Becker **assured** me that she was **sure** there wasn't a problem with the Durashield CS labeling. Oddly, I was not reassured.

My next step was to try and find an on-line copy of this label. I finally found an old (rev. 1998) copy on a Whitmire Micro-Gen Web page using the Google search engine. (Don't be surprised; in this day and age even royalty are learning to make use of the

modern conveniences.) This 1998 label copy was not marked as an RUP.

Finally, I conducted a survey of the information provided by Kelly Registrations for their contract states. I found that in every case, including a host of 2002 registrations, Kelly lists Durashield CS as a general use pesticide (except in Vermont where it carries a state restricted use notation).

So what, exactly, was I holding in my Queenly Hands? Was it a label with a split personality? Is it possible that Durashield CS really isn't an RUP? I don't think so. How could Whitmire Micro-Gen produce two versions of the label in the same month, marking one as an RUP and the other not, and then be so clueless as to distribute them to a state regulatory agency? Further, when Called from on High, how could a representative of Whitmire Micro-Gen (or anyone, for that matter) blow off the QBL with such **assure-ance**?

Finally, I would like to discuss the most recent, most flagrant ignore-ance of all. I have recently received Royal Intelligence that a mere serf at EPA, someone by the name of Jim Jones (who has the effrontery to refer to himself as the King of Labels—humff!) has developed a pilot program that enables select individuals to submit questions and comments on pesticide labels. This Web-based program allows a user to submit comments or questions about a label. By typing in the EPA number of the product in question, an e-mail is automatically (through the magic of technology) directed to the EPA product manager responsible for that item. Everyone involved in the program receives a copy of the e-mail message and EPA's response. Mr. Jones believes that within a few months this program, now limited to five states, will expand to all 50 states. As designed this program is limited to input and participation from state's departments of agriculture and EPA regional offices.

Let the public record show that I am permanently (but luckily not fatally) offended. This *could* be a great idea. But where is the part where the EPA's Mr. Jones picks up the phone and consults with the QBL? Had he, I would have offered the following Royal Recommendations:

- Post all correspondence for each label so that when a person types in an EPA number one can view all preceding correspondence to see if your question/comment has already been addressed.
- Use not only the EPA number but also the product name. Consider for a moment Monsanto and EPA registration number 524-343: one EPA number, five different products.
- Use label revision information when designating the label in question so that everyone knows exactly which label copy is being discussed.
- Include distributor labels in this program. Because EPA does not review these labels I suspect that they will not be included; yet, these labels are subject to the same errors, omissions, and faults as other labels.
- Open the process to all comers. What group of people is most likely to read pesticide labels? (These pages make it obvious that it isn't EPA.) Obviously the biggest group perusing pesticide labels is pesticide users. Surely they should have easy access to this program. If EPA doesn't want to deal with the lowly public then perhaps they could agree to

Agrichemical and Environmental News

let the questions be filtered through Cooperative Extension. In Washington State, this is a common path for label questions.

- Summarize information annually. EPA should give an award for the label with the most problems. It would be very useful to track the most common type of problem found on pesticide labels. To this end perhaps in responding to the original e-mail the product manager could code the reply as to the type of issue that was addressed: layout, typo, usage site terminology, revision information, etc. Feeding this type of information back to the registrants and EPA might eventually lead to across the board label improvements.

Note that these are just some off-the-top-of-my-crown thoughts on this subject. Had I been involved in the planning and really given this some serious thought just imagine how good a program it might have been. I suppose that this is the price that EPA must pay for ignoring the QBL.

Take note, all you registrants out there: EPA may be ignoring me, but don't you dare or you will soon be keeping Sipcam Agro and Whitmire Micro-Gen company on the Wildly Wayward Registrants list.

In an ongoing effort to force a job offer from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Her Royal Highness The Queen Bee of Labels (HRH QBL, a.k.a. WSU's Jane M. Thomas) takes time out of her busy Royal Schedule periodically to point out oddities and aggravations on pesticide labels. It is the QBL's Opinion Most High that if she were in charge of all things label, a few RULES, combined with swift and thorough consequences for transgressors, would whip the whole pesticide label business into shape in a matter of weeks. Until such time as EPA sees the light and appoints HRH QBL to her rightful position, The Queen shall content herself with commentary such as appears periodically in these pages. HRH QBL can be reached at (509) 372-7493 or jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu .)

FREE SUBSCRIPTION

If you would like to receive monthly e-mail notification when each month's new issue goes on-line, please send an e-mail to majordomo@tricity.wsu.edu. The body of message should read **subscribe aenews_dist**, and nothing (not even a signature line) should follow the subscribe message.

AENews welcomes your comments. Please direct any comments on newsletter content to Catherine Daniels, Managing Editor, (509) 372-7495, fax (509) 372-7491, or cdaniels@tricity.wsu.edu. Comments regarding newsletter format, Web usability, or other general concerns may be addressed to Sally O'Neal Coates, Editor, (509) 372-7378, fax (509) 372-7491, or scoates@tricity.wsu.edu .