

Balance Is Essential For Pesticides, Wildlife

NEWARK, Del. — When planning pesticide programs this winter and next spring, keep in mind water quality, wildlife and the environment, says Dean Belt, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension renewable resources agent.

"Agricultural pesticides can pose a number of hazards to wildlife," he says. "Some chemicals are toxic enough to kill wildlife on contact while others can weaken them. This condition makes them more likely to fall victim to disease, predation or harsh weather." Belt adds that the loss of habitat caused by farming and reduced food supply as a result of killing both target and non-target insects can cause hardships for wildlife as well.

"With special management consideration, agriculture and wildlife can be compatible," he says. "And although some practices may be inconvenient at times, it is worth the effort if you value our environment."

"There are many opportunities to develop management plans for your farm or even on a field-by-field basis when special environmental concerns exist," Belt continues. "Reducing pesticide

impact on wildlife requires using the best management techniques available."

Belt offers the following general suggestions:

- Add buffer strips to protect wetlands and provide a pesticide-free zone for wildlife.

- Avoid drift to non-target areas.

- If you have runoff potential next to a wetland, consider using the least hazardous pesticide and perhaps changing a planting date until after the usual heavy spring rain season.

- Scout your crops and apply pesticides only when it is cost-effective.

- Consider crop rotations to help reduce pesticide needs over time.

- Consider programs that provide assistance in removing marginal land from production and establishing wildlife habitat on it.

For further information on using pesticides wisely, contact your county Extension office in Newark (302) 451-2506, Dover (302) 697-4000, or Georgetown (302) 856-7303. County offices have available copies of "Agricultural Pesticides and Wildlife," a brochure created at Iowa State University.

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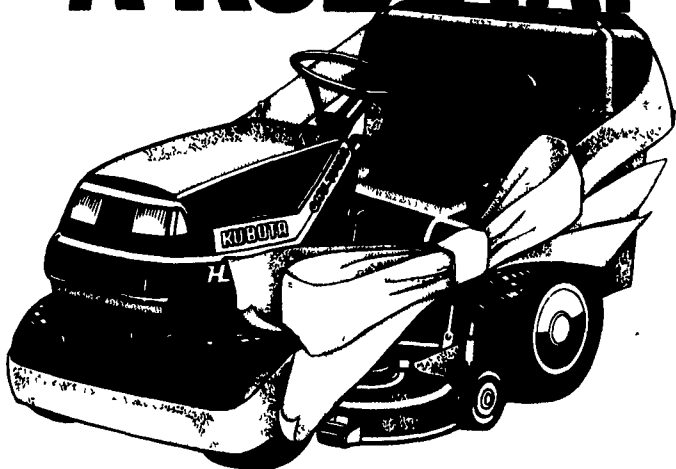
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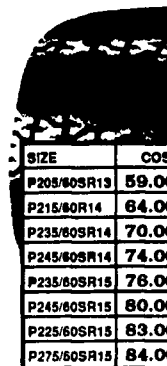
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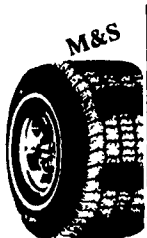


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P185/80R13	\$9.00	P185/70SR14	\$11.00
P185/75R14	\$11.00	P205/70SR14	\$8.00
P185/75R14	\$12.00	P215/70SR14	\$8.00
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