

# Dasanit not for campus use, claims OSU entomologist

"Dasanit should not have been used at YSU to begin with unless on isolated areas where people could be kept out," Dr. A.C. Waldron, Ohio State University extension specialist (pesticides chemicals) and a professor of entomology, said in a telephone interview Wednesday. Henry Garono, landscaping supervisor, had no comment on Waldron's statement.

A landscaping worker, William Shaffer, had been injured last April 18 when he and another

worker, James McCollum, were spreading Dasanit on university grounds, McCollum said. The chemical, an organic phosphate insecticide, was spread on the lawns near the parking decks, Ward Beecher Science Hall, between Elm Street School and the Beeghley Physical Education Center, and at President John Cofelt's residence, 1010 Colonial Drive in Liberty, McCollum said.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Compendium of Registered Pesticides (Volume

11) states that Dasanit should not be used on home lawns, Waldron stated. Waldron said "home lawns" would also include university lawns.

A copy of Dasanit bag that McCollum said was used for campus application lists as a restriction "Do not use in or near human dwellings." Waldron said that that restriction excludes use around residential areas or areas where people are around, such the University.

Another restriction on the bag states "Birds feeding on treated areas may be killed." Several dead birds have been found on campus after the chemicals application but, Waldron said, while it can kill wildlife, dead birds themselves are circumstantial evidence. Residue studies must be taken to determine the cause of their death, Waldron said.

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Oren W. Spilker, pesticide specialist of pesticide regulation of Ohio Department of Agriculture, said that there presently is no harm to people on the treated areas because rains in the area would wash the pesticide into the ground. After the insecticide was first applied, Spilker said that it was possible for someone on the grass to be injured by contact with dasanit. Spilker added that such possibilities are hard to determine.

If Dasanit were to be used on campus Waldron said, it should be in an area where there is no human access or where means exist to keep people out. He added that warning signs are sometimes not sufficient to prevent entrance into a treated area.

McCollum said that they were not told to put out warning signs on the treated areas or tell passers-by about the insecticide. McCollum, though, said that he and Shaffer did tell students not to sit or lay in the area on their own initiative.