

Agricultural Chemicals Book I – Insecticides, Acaricides and Ovicides 1998 by W.T. Thomson (14th Revision). Thomson Publications, Fresno, CA, USA. xxiv + 270 pp. ISBN: 0-913702-33-1. Paper. \$24.95 US

This volume will prove a useful reference for pest managers seeking preliminary information about possible control agents for insect and mite pests. The book begins with brief instructions on how to use the manual. A comprehensive index follows and contains nearly 2,000 entries. The major portion of the manual briefly describes insecticides, acaricides and ovicides either available or under development around the world. This portion of the text comprises seven sections: cyclo compounds and organic metal compounds; carbamates; animal plant derivatives, synthetic pyrethroids, and inorganic compounds; diphenyl compounds and other non-phosphate insecticides; and, three groupings of organic phosphates. The Glossary that follows contains pointers on sprayer calibration and a number of useful conversion tables and formulae. Also included in the Glossary are tables of standard weights and metric equivalents. If one wanted to learn the number of "grains" in a "scruple" and the number of "scruples" in a "dram", one would turn to the Glossary. A comprehensive list of addresses of the basic manufacturers of compounds listed in the manual forms the final chapter.

The agrochemical industry is continually evolving as pesticide registrations are expanded, experimental materials are registered and new compounds are synthesized or discovered and enter the development process. W.T. Thomson has attempted to keep his publications as up to date as possible; the current release is the 14th revision of the manual. Since the volume attempts to list all control agents for insects and mites in use or in development around the world, reference to each must be cursory at best. Nonetheless, for each listing, the reader will find: the common name; known trade names; the structural formula; origin and brief information on toxicity; formulations available; known phytotoxicity; uses; rate range; and, limitations and precautions. This manual is only intended to be a starting point in a search for information for a particular control agent. In every case, the label is the only definitive source of information and must be carefully consulted before recommendations can be made.

Anyone who has learned only the name of a particular control agent and desires a bit more information will find this volume particularly useful. If either a common name or a trade name is known, a quick scan of the index should lead to that information. Indeed, the index will be the most frequently consulted portion of the book as materials within each section are not listed alphabetically. This book is not designed for anyone seeking information about control of a specific pest on a specific crop; indexes of pests and crops have not been prepared.

Organization of the book is its greatest limitation. Compounds can be readily located only by consulting the index. There is no apparent order of listings within sections. Also, while most application rates are specified in metric units, rates for many of the older materials are listed in units of the U.S. Customary system. Consistency would reduce the potential for error. Finally there are a number of minor typographical errors throughout the text. Nonetheless, *Agricultural Chemicals – Book I* is a reasonably priced, relatively complete and concise source of information for insecticides, acaricides and ovicides. On the pest manager's shelf, the volume will prove a useful place to start a search for information about an unfamiliar pest control agent. The manual provides sufficient information to allow a searcher to locate and request a product label – the definitive source of product information.

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