Cruising the DPR Website
www.cdpr.ca.gov

John B. Stutz, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, California

The Department of Pesticide Regulation has provided web-based public access to regulatory and other relative materials since 1995. These initial offerings came during the early days of the internet when "mosaic" was still the browser of choice (and not just a plant virus), Microsoft domination of all things "PC" was a distant reality, and access via a 9600 baud modem was really "flying".

DPR was the first pesticide regulatory agency in the United States to provide real time database access to registered product and chemical data. In addition, DPR developed the programming to access the USEPA's Pesticide Product Information System (PPIS), an application made available to the public in 1996. The EPA product data access has been recently updated to include a link to multi-page "tiff" images of the labels, making the application even more useful. The DPR also instituted the use of "list serving" in 1996 to reduce costs, and increase distribution of notices, regulatory changes, press releases, etc. It is estimated that the Pesticide Registration Branch alone saves nearly $40,000 per year in production and mailing costs and reaches a much larger audience of stakeholders.

Access by the public of DPR's website has grown by leaps and bounds over the years despite the esoteric nature of the data. Today the website registers upwards of 500,000 hits per month and is accessed by users from every country in the world.

DPR's website (www.cdpr.ca.gov) contains a significant number of documents and access to a number of real time databases not all of which may be relevant or of interest to the weed science profession. Throughout the rest of this document, I will try to prioritize those areas of content that I think will be of most use or interest to Weed Science Society members and include the internet links to those resources.

Product/Label and Chemical Information
(www.cdpr.ca.gov/dprdatabase.htm)

There are 12,043 pesticide products currently registered in California with 1,438 categorized as herbicides. Products registered with the US Environmental Protection Agency number approximately 28,000.

Users can access product information by a number of different criteria; product name, registration number, chemical ingredient, pesticide type, formulation, signal word, etc. These searches require some practice to master and in most instances searches on partial names or numbers will compensate for a misspelling or incorrect number. There are several hints when searching both the DPR and USEPA data; i.e. the federal product name and state registered name often are completely different, or; chemical trade names and the common or technical names vary widely. HINT 2: it is better to start your search at a high level, like "company name"(i.e. Du Pont) and then narrow the search as you go along.

The EPA's PPIS database is located at www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/epa/epamenu.htm. This database is also searchable by several criteria. The product reports found via this application contain links to images of the federally registered label information. HINT: you will need to have a multi-page "tiff" viewer configured on your PC to view these labels. Kodak or Wang viewers are both free and generally provided with your windows software.

A new application, developed in conjunction with the National Pesticide Information Retrieval System (NPIRS), utilizes a combination of California and Federal label information. The unique feature of this application is that you can access products by target pests, including specific weed names. This link can be found on DPR's database page, but can also be accessed directly at: http://state.ceris.purdue.edu/doc/ca/stateca.html.

Once you have identified a specific product or products, the most likely online source for an up-to-date label is at the Crop Data Management Systems (CDMS) website: www.cdms.net/manuf/default.asp. While CDMS is not linked to DPR's site, most major and minor agricultural and turf/ornamental products can be found here. HINT: you will need a PDF reader (free at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html) installed on your PC in order to view the labels or MSDS's.

It is unfortunate that all product and chemical information are not aggregate on one website, neatly linked together, and easily accessible by any criteria. It will require substantial resources, prioritization, and a lot of cooperation to make that happen.

Licensing, Certification and Continuing Education
(www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/liccert.htm)

Many members of the Weed Science Society and attendees of this conference are licensed by the State of California as Pest Control Advisors, Qualified Applicators, Dealers, or Brokers. The DPR website has application forms, exam schedules, listings of approved continuing education classes, on-line county registration for pest control licensees, and much more.

Pesticide Use Information
(http://jolie.cdpr.ca.gov/cfdocs/calpip/prod/main.cfm)

New to the DPR website on January 1, 2003, is the California Pesticide Information Portal (CalPIP). This application provides access to the most extensive database of pesticide use information in the world. Complex queries can be developed in a top-down fashion using many different data criteria and output can be formatted as tabular raw data or summarized by category or subcategory. This is a complex application that requires practice and forethought to use effectively. HINT: you should carefully read the Introduction and Overview and the First Time Users sections before you start.

News, Notices, and Regulatory Changes
(www.cdpr.ca.gov/dprnews.htm)

If you need to keep on top of information regarding new products coming down the registration pipeline, news releases, and regulatory changes, you are in luck! All these items and many more are available via the DPR website. One of the best ways to receive specific information that you are interested in is by subscribing to a "list". DPR currently has 11 different lists that range from the Surface Water Protection Program updates to Materials Entering Evaluation (registration process).

Publications, Reports, Summaries, and Reviews
(www.cdpr.ca.gov/dprprograms.htm)

There are hundreds, if not thousands of scientific or regulatory documents on the DPR website pertaining to pesticide toxicity, environmental fate, monitoring, enforcement, etc. These reports may be found under the individual program web pages or by using the *search* or *advanced search* features found in the upper right corner of many of the top level pages on the DPR website (www.cdpr.ca.gov)

Conclusion

The DPR website is a constantly evolving product. What you currently see is the result of input from stakeholders, staff, industry groups, and the legislature. DPR is committed to provide the best source of pesticide information and to use internet technology for cost-saving efficiencies and to streamline the regulatory process. We encourage all of you to use the site to it's fullest capabilities and to provide us with your comments regarding content and navigation.