

STATE CHEMIST SECTION

David A. Tibbets, *Chief*

Vacancy, *State Chemist*

0233 Chemistry Bldg.
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

454-2721

Formerly under the Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services, the State Chemist Section was transferred to the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation in 1987. The State Chemist Section samples and chemically tests and analyzes commercial fertilizers, feeds, pesticides, soil conditioners, and liming materials sold in the State. The Section registers and examines the labels of these products as well. The purpose is to determine if the products conform to standards established under Maryland laws governing quality, contents, and labeling. Measures are taken to protect the consumer and the dealer from unscrupulous or careless manufacturers.

The Section cooperates with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the inspection of feed manufacturing facilities that produce medicated feeds. To implement the federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Section also works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, Section lab technicians analyze meat and toxicology samples for the Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services; test fruits, vegetables, commercial feeds, and soils for chemical residues; and make other determinations as required by the Department (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-101 through 5-114, 6-101 through 6-117, 6-201 through 6-220, 6-301 through 6-310).

TURF AND SEED SECTION

Malcolm L. Sarna, *Chief*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

841-5960

The Turf and Seed Section works to assure the availability of sufficient quantities of certified turf

and seed. It directs and conducts certification programs by which turf and seed are produced to meet standards of purity, variety, germination, and other quality factors. From the evidence of field inspections or laboratory analysis, the Section rejects seed or sod not meeting certification standards.

The Section also regulates the labeling of seed and sod at the time of marketing to help consumers determine what to purchase. A State testing laboratory is operated for both service and regulatory testing to assure compliance with label claims. The regulatory phase involves inspection, testing, reporting results, and corrective actions for each turf and seed lot found not to comply with provisions of the Seed Law (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-101 through 9-110, 9-201 through 9-213, 9-301 through 9-307).

WEED CONTROL SECTION

Jesse J. Crook, *Chief*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

841-5871

The Weed Control Section controls and prevents the spread in Maryland of the nuisance weeds—Johnsongrass, thistles, and multiflora rose. The Weed Control Program helps landowners bring nuisance weeds under control through their own efforts and through joint efforts of county and State as provided for in cooperative agreements with the various counties. The Department encourages landowners to file Nuisance Weeds Control Plans, outlining methods and procedures for controlling these weeds on their land. The Department takes regulatory actions against landowners who allow specific nuisance weeds to set seed on their property.

The Secretary of Agriculture has authority to declare other weeds noxious and place them under a control program. The Section Chief serves as the State's authority on weed control matters (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-401 through 9-405, 9-701 through 9-705).

DEFUNCT DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES

NUISANCE BIRD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Abolished by Chapter 65, Acts of 1988.