

## Many Pesticides Going or Gone from Garden Center Shelves

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Recently several pesticides that the home gardener has used for years have disappeared from the garden center shelves. If they haven't gone already, they will soon. The disappearance of Dursban, Diazinon, and Daconil has led to many questions about what will we now use to fend off all those bad critters and diseases that attack our landscape.

All I can tell you is the reason for the disappearance of these products from garden center shelves is the **Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)**. It is a federal act that requires all pesticides to be reviewed for their cumulative risks to people and the environment.

I will not even try explaining FQPA the process because I do not really know how or where to start. However, with the disappearance of some of these pesticides comes the replacement pesticides. Because of the chemistry of these newer pesticides, they often are less hazardous than the older pesticides and there may be less risk in using them. Some new pesticides will work better than the old ones, while some may not work as well.

If you will, remember back to past articles that you have seen here written by county extension agents. We have been trying to get consumers to become more tolerant of minor insect and disease problems in and around your landscape. We have also been preaching using alternative methods for insects and disease management. The key word is "management", not eradication.

Just because there is a bug on our bush or a brown patch in our lawn does not mean we have to pour on the pesticides to get control of the situation. The best solution may simply be to do nothing at all. So many times I have friends stop by my office with a poor helpless, harmless "bug-in-a-jar." They do not know what kind of bug this is but they know they want to kill it because they think it is responsible for some problem they're having with their plants. Much of the time the bug is even a beneficial insect and certainly requires no action. We have to get out of that mode of thinking that "the only good bug is a dead bug".

One term I want you to remember from this article is **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**. You will hear it over and over again and again as FQPA makes its circuits with pesticide risk assessment and more pesticides bite the dust.

Dursban (chlorpyrifos), a common insecticide for indoor and outdoor use, was taken off the shelf at the end of last year. Diazinon, another common insecticide, will be gone once existing supplies are sold. And Daconil (chlorothalonil), a common lawn fungicide, will no longer be available for use on home lawns once existing supplies are sold. But just because these pesticides are gone does not mean we are going to be taken over by insects and diseases. There have been many new replacements put on the shelves for homeowners to choose from. Below is just a small sampling of what you may find at local garden centers.

One company that has put together a new line of homeowner products is Bayer. The product

line is called **Bayer Advanced**. These products, such as **Imidacloprid** and **Cyfluthrin**, are based on new chemistry. Imidacloprid, sold as Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control, is a very safe product when used correctly. It is even sold under the tradename Advantage for flea and tick control on pets. The Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control can be applied as a drench. The insecticide will be taken up the root system and spread systemically throughout the plant. This ensures that only insects feeding on the plant will be killed.

How about Ortho products, remember them? Many Ortho products are still available. Products such as Isotox Insect Killer, Home Orchard Spray, Orthenex and several others. Lets not forget the Spectracide line of products. Spectracide markets such products as Spectracide Immunox Lawn Disease Control, Garden Disease Control, and more.

How many of you have you taken a look at fire ant control products on the shelves? There are several new products to choose from. One such new product is **Over 'N Out**, which contains **fipronil**. It promises "season long control" of fire ants . Fipronil is a very safe product when used correctly. It, too, is sold for flea and tick control on pets by the name Frontline.

See, many good products do still exist. Look for other brands such as Dragon, Green Light, Security, Bonide, Fertilome, Hi-Yield, etc. You will find that you still have many choices when you really do need to reach for a pesticide.

Also, let's not forget about **insecticide soaps, horticultural oils, and Bacillus thuringiensis (BT)**. These products can control many insect pests and are easy on beneficial insects such as ladybugs, green lacewings, big-eyed bugs, and many others. These bugs are the good guys.

When you visit your garden center looking for new products, be sure to always read the label of the pesticide you are considering, before you leave the store with it. Be sure that it can really be used for the purpose you're intending to use it. The site or plant where you intend to use it needs to be on the label. For example, if you're looking for something to use on your lawn, make sure the pesticide has directions for home lawn use and not just for use on sod farms or golf courses. Millions of dollars of research goes into the information on pesticide labels. Take time to use it.

For more information about gardening in our area, visit the University of Florida IFAS Leon County Extension website at <http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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*Photo by David Marshall, UF-IFAS Extension*

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