

Translation of article in "Nationen" of 27 Aug 79.

Gramoxone will not be banned !

The question of a ban on the herbicide Gramoxone will not arise in this country. The Poisons Board agreed to this during their meeting yesterday. The president of the Board, professor Johannes Barstad, informs "Nationen" that an emetic is now added to the substance which will prevent mortal poisonings. The Poisons Board recommend that all users destruct old stock of Gramoxone which is not added the emetic.

A farmer in the "Sørlandet" died a short while ago after having ingested some of the poison. When he opened the bottle with the herbicide it splashed into his face and mouth. The farmer was put into hospital a few days later where he died of the poisoning. It was after this tragical incident that the Work Commission in Kristianssand contacted the Poisons Board in order to have the substance banned.

- It is true that the farmer in Reddal did use Gramoxone which was not added the emetic, says professor Johannes Barstad. He adds that the Poisons Board had superintended the substance for the last few years and they have found no reason for a total ban.

- We do not wish to make propaganda for the continuous use of Gramoxone, but we will, through different kinds of recommendations, go out to the users and appeal to them that they remove the old bottles without the emetic.

Limited use

During the meeting yesterday the Poisons Board discussed a possible limitation of the area of use for Gramoxone, but concluded that it is not a practical way to go. This will hardly lead to a limitation of the use of the substance. The point must be to make it clear that the substance must be used conscientiously. We must now see to it that the old Gramoxone bottles are withdrawn from the retailers, and of course, the question of importing new quantities of the old kind will not arise, says professor Barstad

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