

OZONews

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1- Antarctic Ozone Hole to Expand in Coming Weeks

The annual depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer has begun over Antarctica and the hole is set to expand in coming weeks, the World Meteorological Organization said on Friday. In its latest bulletin, the WMO said the size of the ozone hole over the Antarctic was "normal for this time of year." The depletion began as delegates prepared to discuss environmental issues in Johannesburg next week at the Earth Summit, ... WMO said earlier this month that as the sun rises over Antarctica, chemical ozone loss could be expected to occur with an intensity linked to weather conditions in the stratosphere, particularly in September and October. Weather conditions would strongly influence the extent and persistence of the ozone hole ...

Article @: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/reuters20020823_85.html

Source: ABC News, By: Reuters, 23 August 2003

2- A MAESTRO in the Stratosphere to Try Understand Ozone Depletion

A weather balloon measuring 25 storeys high is set to launch into the upper levels of the atmosphere from Saskatchewan early Thursday on a journey to collect information on the amount of ozone-depleting chemicals in the atmosphere. The balloon is the third such ozone-measuring instrument launched by a research group made up of Environment Canada, the University of Toronto and the Canadian Space Agency ... " Scientists, who are launching a series of the weather balloons, plan to gather data on the levels of a number of chemicals over a period of time and compile information pointing to the state of the atmosphere at different times ... On board is one tonne of instruments, which will determine the thickness of the layer. Among the high-tech equipment is a new ozone-measuring instrument called the MAESTRO. The instrument will eventually be used on a Canadian science satellite to be launched in 2003, and will be used from space to determine the amount of ozone loss over the Arctic ...

Article @:

<http://www.globeandmail.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/front/RTGAM/20020828/wball08282/Front/homeBN/breakingnews>

Source: Globe and Mail Update - Online Edition, 28 August 2002, By Allison Dunfield.

3- Home Office Defies Prescott Ozone Directive (UK)

Leaked documents reveal that the Home Office is insisting its new Whitehall headquarters is fitted with an air conditioning system which has been officially criticised because of its damage to the environment. Confidential tendering documents for the building in Marsham Street, London, show the government will only consider bids to supply air conditioning that uses hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs. John Prescott's UK climate change programme says that the use of HFCs is unsustainable, and advises businesses and government contract managers that "action be taken to limit" their use ... The deputy prime minister's climate change programme, produced in November 2000, is supposed to be at the centre of Britain's environment policy. It states that HFCs are not sustainable in the long term, and includes a "green guide for buyers" warning that refrigeration leakage over two years from an air conditioning plant in a medium sized office block is equal to 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas ... As HFCs are many times more powerful than carbon dioxide, their use should be avoided, the programme states, expressing the hope that they will be "replaced in the applications where they are used" ...

Article @: <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/green/story/0,9061,779433,00.html>

Source: The Guardian, UK, By: Alan Travis, home affairs editor, 23 August 2002

4- Unknown Nematode Found Attacking Pine Trees

Plant pathologists at the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have discovered a new cause of damage to loblolly pine seedlings grown in the South - needle nematodes. In 1998, a three year study was initiated in a southern Georgia nursery to evaluate treatments to replace methyl bromide (MC33), an ozone depleting soil fumigant scheduled for phase out by 2005. During the third year of the study, patches of stunted seedlings began to appear in different sections of the nursery fields. The needles of the stunted seedlings were yellowed, and the root systems were much smaller than normal, with few lateral or fine roots ... the nematodes have been identified in soil from areas where southern pines are grown ... the Department of Agriculture's Nematology Laboratory in Maryland was unable to identify the species of Longidorus found in Georgia. The nematode is now listed as "undescribed" and believed to be a new species. The new Longidorus is seven to eight millimeters long - considered quite large for a plant parasitic nematode - and occurs in small numbers around the roots of stunted pine seedlings ... "Nursery managers and pest management specialists who suspect nematode damage should alert nematode testing laboratories to examine soil samples specifically for Longidorus." The discovery of the nematode was reported in the July 2002 issue of the journal "Plant Disease," available online @: <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/viewpub.jsp?index=4444>
Source: Environment News Service (ENS), 28 August 2002.

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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