

WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT FOOD SAFETY?

Within the last twelve months, the news media has focused a tremendous amount of attention on the issue of food safety as it relates to pesticide residues. Meryl Streep, Caesar Chavez and Ed Bradley of Sixty Minutes are but a few of the personalities involved in publicizing these concerns. This publicity has created some dramatic changes in the way consumers view the safety of the food they buy and has stimulated some unprecedented action on the part of supermarket produce buyers that includes initiating their own residue testing programs and insisting on residue free or organically grown produce among other activities.

Those of us associated with the ornamental and turf industry may have been lulled into a false sense of security by this action because we are not specifically mentioned in these reports. This is far from the truth as we are very much a part of any policy that affects agriculture. In spite of the size of our industry, many ornamental and turf materials are registered primarily for use on food crops. Eliminating or restricting those registrations may cause the withdrawal of a product as it will no longer be economically feasible to produce exclusively for ornamentals and turf. The next educational meeting for CAPCA will be December 7, 1989 at Sunol Valley Golf Course. Registration at 7:30 AM. Call John Law at (415) 825-2271 for more information.

The above information from Dave Hansen, President of CAPCA.

HERE COMES THE LAW

Are you confused about all the new laws and regulations? Hopefully, after reading this update from Stan Strew, you will have a better understanding of your new upcoming responsibilities.

Continuing Education Requirements- Currently, CDFA has filed a proposal with OAL which will require 20 hours of

Continuing Education for QAL and QAC licenses and this must include 4 hours of Laws and Regs. For PCA'S the requirement of 40 hours of C.E. every two years must include 4 hours of laws and regs.

Groundwater protection- Proposed regs were open for public comment in March and April 1989. CDFA is getting ready to file with OAL, so until then we won't know the contents of the amended regs. CDFA is still trying for January 1990.

AB 2126 Rogers- was enacted into law September 1988. Several public agencies told CDFA they couldn't possibly comply in such a short time. So the deadline for PCA compliance will be extended to July 1, 1991 for Public Agencies.

AB1320 Jones- was passed September 1989 giving them until July 1991 to comply.

Pesticide Use Reporting- proposal is currently in OAL and CDFA hopes to implement it by January 1990. Reporting requirements are pretty much the same as they have been except ALL pesticides must be reported, not just restricted ones.

The above as seen in the October 1989 CAPCA newsletter.

SHINDAIWA SEMINAR

The Shindaiwa power equipment seminar scheduled in November has been changed to January 1990. Please read your December Thru the Green Newsletter for details. Call Steve Kent at Scotsco, Inc. for further information at 1-800-648-6644.

GCSAA CERTIFICATION

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is making an effort to provide consistency in the GCSAA certification procedure. Our