Groundwater scare spreads

Concern over contamination of groundwater in New York, Florida and New Jersey is spreading to other states, the most recent being Connecticut. The Connecticut Tree Protective Association sent a legislative alert out to arborists and landscape in late February to help counteract overzealous state lawmakers excited by recent groundwater contamination stories.

Industry members get concerned when state laws venture too far from national ones. In this case, two bills are in question. One requires monthly reports to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and posting of job sites. Another would allow the state to change the classification of a pesticide regardless of Federal action.

Seed label laws come to terms

'Noxious' or 'undesirable' makes a big difference to seed companies in Pennsylvania and other Atlantic states.

Afraid of different labelling requirements for each state, people like Adikes' Bob Russell are opposed to new state seed label laws. Others, like Penn State University's Dr. Joe Duich, feel stronger laws will improve the overall image of seed from reputable companies.

The biggest problem may be the states don't talk to each other when formulating their regulations, or do they? Progress has been made through regional regulatory officials, helping change the terminology of 'noxious', required by state laws on seed labels, to 'undesirable'. But the battle is not over, even with the change in terminology. It should be a hot topic at the American Seed Trade Association meeting this summer.

Reclamation laws may fall short

When abandoned mine reclamation funds expire in 1992, thousands of acres of scarred lands will remain, according to a recent report by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Not only are the lands scarred, but they pour nearly 2,400 tons of sediment per square mile per year into Tennessee Valley waterways alone. The TVA report states, "The abandoned mine problem will not go away; rather it will, in many cases, become more critical and costly to solve."

The Federal Reclamation laws were first implemented in 1977. They represented a great opportunity for landscape contractors, but much of this potential was lost as mining companies battled the laws in court.

Toma speaks, crowd big at Sports Institute

The Sports Turf Institute, held in March at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, doubled in size from its inaugural meeting last year.

Show organizer Professor Kent Kurtz started with the conference last year based on requests received by the University for assistance with both professional and school fields. The first show last May attracted more than 250 field managers and 8 exhibitors. This year's show drew more than 550 field managers and 30 exhibitors.

Well-known sports field expert continued on page 84