LEGISLATION

Local pesticide regs tough to enforce, don’t make sense

MAYFIELD VILLAGE, Ohio—Enforcement of a pre-notification law here has authorities, LCOs and homeowners confused.

“The ordinance...is really quite unenforceable,” says Phil Fogarty, president of the Ohio Lawn Care Association and Crowley Lawn Service, Inc. in Cleveland. The company operates in the village.

“I don’t know how we’re going to police it,” says Gus Amendola, Mayfield’s building commissioner charged with enforcing a 1987 pre-notification law. That law requires that all abutting property owners be given 24 hours notice before pesticide applications by either professionals or homeowners.

According to law director, Fred P. Ramos, applicators will be notified of the law: “We want to be fair. We don’t want to be citing people tomorrow, says Ramos.”

Amendola says he was told to start enforcement immediately.

“I’m a little skeptical,” says Amendola, “because the 24-hour notice will be difficult.” He expects notices to be placed in mailboxes. “Someone could put the notice in the mailbox at 2 o’clock in the morning and then come back and spray at 8 a.m. How do I know what time they [put the notice in the mailbox]?”

Citizens who work during the day are another concern. “People will not get their mail until they come home,” Amendola points out.

Also, it’s against federal law to place non-mailed items in mailboxes.

Fogarty is trying to come up with a sensible ordinance that can be used in Mayfield and surrounding communities. “I’m attempting to get these cities to sit down with the industry and environmental people and work something out,” he says. Fogarty admits that he has a tough job when it comes to seeking suitable pesticide ordinances. The co-host of a gardening radio show, Fogarty is bringing 2,4-D developer, Wendell Mullison, to town. The plan was to have Mullison meet with local officials, yet one mayor up for re-election this fall told Fogarty that he wouldn’t be seen in public with Mullison.

Fogarty still hopes a solution can be negotiated. “I’m trying to get something accomplished, not draw battlelines,” he says.

—Jim Guyette

EVENTS

AUGUST

13: Associated Green Industries of Northeastern Ohio summer field day, Great Lakes Evergreens, Madison, Ohio. Contact: AGI, (216) 572-2784.

15: The Wisconsin Nurserymen’s Association, summer field day and trade show, Lied’s Nursery Farms, Sussex, Wisc. Contact: (414) 246-7445.


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Kentucky bluegrass ranks among the best
From Jacklin Seed Co. comes Suffolk Kentucky bluegrass, a variety which consistently ranked in the upper third in quality ratings of 72 like varieties, reports Jacklin.

Suffolk is a new, moderately low-growing, medium dark-green variety which has high test results in resistance to fusarium blight, powdery mildew, leafspot and dollar spot.

The varieties are: Sonesta seeded bermudagrass, Aztec tall fescue and Brigade (formerly Melody) hard fescue.

Sonesta will have limited availability this fall. The company says based on National Turfgrass Evaluation Program results, the variety will be the highest quality seeded bermuda on the market.

Aztect, an improved tall fescue, will be marketed next year. Dark green and fine textured, the variety received high ratings in national trials in 1988 and 1989.

Brigade will also be on the market in 1992. Ranking fifth out of 93 entries, the hard fescue placed well in national fine fescue tests.

Self-healing tire more than normal sealant
Synair Corp. now markets the TyrLyner, a self-healing rubber liner for tires that the company says prevents puncture flats.

The TyrLyner bonds a layer of rubber to the tire casting, converting any pneumatic tire into one protect against air leaks. Synair says the process gives uniform coverage over the most vulnerable areas. It is called 99 percent effective in preventing puncture flats.

Starter fertilizer lends a hand on greens, tees
Lebanon Turf Products recently introduced Country Club 10-18-18 AOS starter fertilizer which the company claims assures successful seeding and even nutrient distribution.

Country Club 10-18-18 AOS (aerification, overseeding, starter) contains the 1-2-2 ratio including 35 percent organic nitrogen, 2.2 units water insoluble nitrogen for safe and sustained feeding and 100 percent sulfate of potash.

Lebanon Turf Products says the fertilizer may be used effectively in aerification and topseeding, providing sufficient amounts of phosphorus and potassium while keeping available nitrogen at a manageable level. Spoon feeding cool season turf in overseeding situations is possible.

Tall fescue blend fills need in Southeast
Confederate brand tall fescue blend addresses the needs of the Southeast turfgrass market, according to Turf-Seed, Inc.

The blend contains Olympic II, Apache and Monarch plus the newly-released Safari. Since Confederate is a branded blend, the company says it will be upgraded with newer, improved varieties as they become available. The Safari component has improved brown patch resistance that is important to the Southeast region.

Confederate has a dark green color, and a moderate growth habit, which Turf-Seed says makes it adaptable and quick to establish.

Bermudagrass seed in many quantities
Numex Sahara bermudagrass is now available in one-, three-, five- and 50-pound bags and a 25-pound pail, manufacturer Farmers Marketing Corp. announces.

Numex Sahara is a seeded turf-type bermudagrass with fine leaf texture, dark green color and uniform appearance, the company says. The variety shows superior drought avoidance characteristics and is recommended for lawns, sports fields, fairways, tees and roughs.

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