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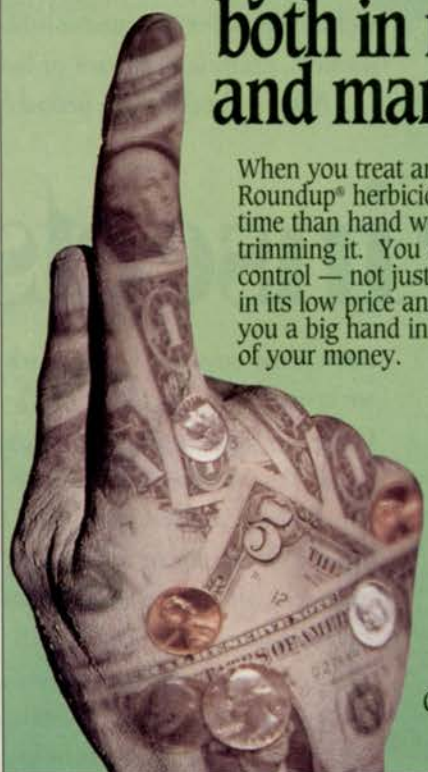
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Circle No. 124 on Reader Inquiry Card

User coalitions score with pre-emption ruling in Washington state

■ When the King County Board of Health tried to regulate commercial lawn and landscape applicators just over a year ago, it didn't expect much of a tussle.

After all, the Interstate Professional Applicators Association (IPAA) isn't a household word in the Seattle area. It has only about 40 members in the entire state of Washington, about that number in Oregon, and its new chapter in Idaho has, maybe, a dozen members.

But just before this past Christmas, the tiny IPAA filed a lawsuit in Superior Court seeking to overturn the health board regulations. Members vow to oppose the regulations, and resolve the issue even before the suit is heard.

"We tried to convince the Board of Health that it didn't have the legal authority to regulate landscape applicators," says Ed Walter, Washington Tree Service, a leader in the legislative fight for the IPAA. "In fact, the state attorney general even wrote that the state has primacy in this matter. We feel the King County prosecutor's office will come to its senses and write us out of the ordinance."

Adds Dan Beheyt, Eastside Spraying Service, Kirkland, Wash.: "If King County can get away with this, the next step is that every little jurisdiction in the state will also want to write their own regulations."

This legislative brushfire in the Pacific Northwest mirrors

dozens of others ignited (some still simmering) after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled two years ago that FIFRA does not preclude states from enacting their own pesticide-use regulations.

The trouble was, many local officials felt that they should be able to regulate pesticide use, too.

State governments in all but about 10 states have since ruled that localities don't; they've decreed that the final say on pesticide-use regulations resides in state capitals.

These successes resulted when coalitions of pesticide-user groups worked with and educated state lawmakers, says Thomas Delaney, legislative affairs director for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA).

Wisconsin passed pre-emption this past December, and Michigan in January. Pooling their efforts in Michigan were the 90-member Lawn Services Association of Michigan and the 300-member Michigan Pest Control Association.

Pre-emption efforts continue in Kentucky (already in place for agriculture but not lawn care), Idaho, Utah, Massachusetts and Maryland.

Here, and probably elsewhere as well, lawn/landscape applicators will continue finding themselves bumping heads with local lawmakers convinced of their *right* to pass pesticide legislation, sometimes in conjunction with the anti-pesticide factions that the green industry has long debated, says Delaney.

"Some people do see it as a home-rule issue. Then it
to page 63

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Circle No. 140 on Reader Inquiry Card

PRE-EMPTION from page 62

becomes an emotional issue," adds Karen Connelly, director of the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP).

In these instances, it's wiser to start with education rather than confrontation, she believes. Sometimes local authorities aren't even aware of state and federal pesticide regulations already in place. Usually they don't even know much about the industries they're thinking about restricting.

But even Connelly admits this doesn't always work. Case in point: Mansfield, Mass., where several LCOs, several years ago, spent dozens of hours trying to reason with sponsors of restrictive pesticide laws. When this failed, the LCOs spent tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees before being vindicated. Winning carried a high price.

But MALCP, with its 85 members, is just one of a dozen or so participants in a statewide Green Industry Alliance. Other pesticide-user groups round out the coalition. All add their collective expertise and weight to local issues.

Recently, some of these pesticide users met with officials of Boxford and Wellesley, Mass. Both local health boards are mulling pesticide-use regulations.

"We were pleased to be able to gather a large grassroots organization to meet with them," relates Connelly. "Fortunately, most of the people (board members) were open to reading the literature and research material we provided them."

In spite of these efforts, and the strong informational ties

the green industry has to Massachusetts state government, it remains one of about 10 states still unwilling to forbid local governments from passing pesticide laws.

"We (MALCP) know what our focus is," adds Richard Ficco, president, Partners Quality Lawn Service. "It's to lobby for our big bill, the pre-emption bill."

—Ron Hall

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Circle No. 141 on Reader Inquiry Card

JOB TALK

Garden is a challenge of historic proportions

■ As the oldest and perhaps the finest landscaped garden in America, South Carolina's Middleton Place exemplifies Southern low country plantation life and style of the 18th and 19th centuries. Classic gardens designed with geometric precision and logic are the highlight of this pastoral plantation near Charleston.

As horticulturist for the historic site, Sidney Frazier is guardian of a 250-year tradition of landscaping excellence. Whenever possible, Frazier emphasizes preserving that history by using species that were part of the garden's original designs.

Frazier's maintenance methods, honed over 20 years, are labor intensive.

"It all has to be weed-free, passable and presentable," he says. "The paths have to be hand-raked, sometimes twice a week, and many of the shrubs have to be pruned for shape, fertilized and sprayed three times a year. The lake and ponds have to be kept up as well. That's a lot of maintenance."

Color philosophy—In the garden proper, color is a vital detail in which Frazier strives to be historically correct and set a proper mood and tone.

"When you have hot and cold colors in the same bed, you feel tense and stressed, and you don't really know why," Frazier explains. "That same tension is totally absent here. It's a completely peaceful experience in every dimension."

Frazier is firm in his philosophy of hues. "We try not to use any hot colors in the summer. You won't see any red or orange, except where we want to highlight a central point," he says. "In the wintertime, it's just the opposite: bright and warm. We just trade off on the seasons."



Keeping a first-class appearance at Middleton Place requires an aggressive—yet fairly low-cost—maintenance program, Frazier is quick to point out.

Aggressive maintenance—Maintaining the right look requires aggressive maintenance. January, for example, starts with azalea planting, path repairs and mole treatments. In February, lawn care begins, along with regular plant pruning and rose replacement. Frazier also uses Casoron to control vine-like weeds in shrubbery and juniper beds then.

Garden maintenance in intensive, March into September. Spraying begins on the flowers and weeds. Any instances of azalea petal blight are treated with Bayleton.

March duties include trims to the bouquet wall, the rice mill hedge, pampasgrass and boxwood, and spraying camellias and azaleas. Spring also means controlling grubs and mole crickets in the turf and peach tree insects with Diazinon.

Roses are sprayed twice weekly for insects with Orthene starting in May, along with Daconil for Fungi. Camillias are pruned continuously. June work includes controlling scale, tea scale, white flies and mites on camellias and azaleas with Cygon.

July and August are particularly difficult months for lace bugs on the Azaleas. The azuyu worm, too, is a serious problem over the summer. Frazier finds Orthene the best remedy for rose pests such as beetles, earwigs, nematodes and spider mites.

Camellias and azaleas are sprayed again in November or February with an oil. At that point, the work starts to wind down. December and January are breaks from spraying.

Cutting labor—At one time, four people were needed to work three days a week just weeding walkways. On alternate weeks, those workers would spend three days pulling weeds from mulch beds. That has changed.

"By using Roundup, it takes only one person to do the same amount of work on the walkways and on the beds. Each area can be done in just one day," says Frazier. "That's 12 times less expense in labor required, plus I've made time for other workers to do different projects. You get more done with the presentations using Roundup."

No matter what the challenges, however, Frazier finds great reward in his work for Middleton Place. "We spend \$10,000 a year on pesticides—only a fraction of what a golf course would spend," he boasts.



Sidney Frazier (right) confers with Sara-Edi Livingston, who designed a nearby wildflower plot.

HOT TOPICS

Sandoz/Gallup poll finds industry becoming safer

'Partnerships' between end users and manufacturers of pest control products are key to public education.

WASHINGTON—A national Gallup Poll commissioned by Sandoz Agro reveals that green industry professionals who apply pest control products are using safer products and application practices.

More than 59 percent of the respondents in all groups applying the products said they are doing things differently compared to five years ago, and increased public concern is one of the main reasons.

The poll surveyed more than 2,000 users of pest control products, including 200 lawn care companies and 200 golf course superintendents, nationwide. Also included in the poll were small animal veterinarians, farmers, structural pest control operators, mosquito district managers and roadside vegetation managers.

"It's pretty clear that these professionals share the public's concerns and are interested in developing partnerships with the public to further improve safety to people and the environment," says David Whitacre, Sandoz's vice president of development. "They're listening and responding, sometimes in ways that go beyond what is required by law."

Other statistics from the survey:

- More than 67 percent said the safeguards in place are sufficient to ensure safety to the environment, the public, animals or wildlife, and product users. They said overwhelmingly that education is the best way to reduce the public's concern.

- Approximately one-fifth of all respondents (except veterinarians) always notify their neighbors when applying products. And almost half believe it is a good idea.

Max Larsen, executive vice president of the Gallup Organization in Lincoln, Neb., sees a common thread running through the survey. "They believe manufacturers have primary responsibility for educating the public and fixing environmental problems, but they see themselves as partners in the process. They want to do the right thing."

The telephone survey was conducted in December, 1993. Results of some questions posed to the lawn care and golf segments of the survey are reproduced here.

SANDOZ NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLL

QUESTION	LAWN	GOLF
1. What is the most serious issue associated with the use of pest control products in your industry?		
SAFETY	32%	33%
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	21%	29%
PROPER APPLICATION	18%	12%
PUBLIC PERCEPTION	20%	10%
EFFECTIVENESS	4%	5%
REGULATIONS	16%	8%
2. In comparison to five years ago, is there more, less or about the same amount of public concern over pest control and the environment?		
MORE	71%	77%
LESS	6%	1%
ABOUT THE SAME	20%	18%
3. What is the most common complaint you hear from the public, your neighbors or customers relating to pest control products?		
QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFETY	24%	9%
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN	9%	5%
EFFICACY	4%	0%
SMELL/ODOR	14%	15%
LACK OF INFORMATION	6%	3%
4. Who do you think has primary responsibility for correcting problems associated with pest control products?		
MANUFACTURERS	31%	37%
USERS/APPLICATORS	24%	28%
GOVERNMENT	26%	21%
CONSUMERS	3%	1%
5. Has your personal concern associated with pest control increased, decreased or stayed the same over the past five years?		
INCREASED	51%	47%
DECREASED	6%	4%
STAYED THE SAME	43%	49%

more on page 66

ELSEWHERE

Endophytes get common names, page 66

Correcting winter damage, page 70

Paul Harvey on pesticides, page 70

Posting for Wisc. homeowners?, page 70

SANDOZ POLL from page 65

QUESTION	LAWN	GOLF
6. Why has it increased?		
PERSONAL AWARENESS	36%	32%
PUBLIC AWARENESS	21%	17%
SAFETY	12%	7%
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	11%	15%
MORE GOV'T. REGULATIONS	4%	11%
INCREASED USE	3%	6%
7. Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available?		
ALWAYS	50%	70%
SOMETIMES	37%	27%
NOT USUALLY/NEVER	3%	3%
8. Do people in your industry wear protective clothing?		
ALWAYS	50%	65%
SOMETIMES	36%	33%
NOT USUALLY/NEVER	11%	1%
9. Do people in your industry dispose of containers properly?		
ALWAYS	62%	78%
SOMETIMES	26%	20%
NOT USUALLY/NEVER	7%	0%
10. Do people in your industry follow labels closely?		
ALWAYS	71%	93%
SOMETIMES	23%	6%
NOT USUALLY/NEVER	4%	1%
11. Do people in your industry attend educational classes?		
ALWAYS	55%	59%
SOMETIMES	33%	36%
NOT USUALLY/NEVER	8%	3%
12. How important is it that people near the application area be informed, if the products are applied properly?		
VERY IMPORTANT	26%	29%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	26%	35%
NOT VERY IMPORTANT	26%	17%
NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL	16%	12%
DEPENDS ON PESTICIDE	4%	4%

QUESTION	LAWN	GOLF
13. Compared to five years ago, are you making fewer applications?		
YES	72%	67%
NO	26%	30%
14. Have you used an integrated pest management (IPM) program?		
YES	77%	77%
NO	23%	23%
15. Compared to five years ago, what are you doing differently regarding the use of pest control products?		
USING SAFER PRODUCTS	33%	37%
BETTER APP. METHODS	20%	16%
USING LESS PRODUCT	30%	33%
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	3%	7%
EDUCATING CUSTOMERS	5%	3%
DISPOSING/STORING PROPERLY	4%	5%
ENCOUNTERING REGULATIONS	7%	2%
GETTING BETTER TRAINING	7%	2%
NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC	5%	6%
16. Do you think some products are knowingly applied improperly?		
YES	58%	39%
NO	38%	53%
17. If yes, do you think this occurs frequently or occasionally?		
FREQUENTLY	35%	9%
OCCASIONALLY	62%	90%
18. What area should be regulated more to prevent unsafe practices?		
APPLICATION	29%	21%
HOMEOWNERS	28%	21%
EDUCATION	5%	8%
ENFORCING REGULATIONS	3%	4%
DISPOSAL	1%	5%
19. Do you feel that the safeguards already in place are sufficient to ensure safety to the environment?		
STRONGLY AGREE	20%	24%
AGREE	56%	65%
DISAGREE	18%	7%
STRONGLY DISAGREE	4%	1%

Researchers now naming endophytes

SANDUSKY, Ohio—Dr. Rich Hurley of Lofts Seeds says researchers are getting so familiar with endophytes they're starting to select and name specific types like the Rose City endophyte from Oregon.

Hurley described endophytes as "true biological insect control" to almost 100 lawn-/landscape managers here, wrapping up a three-city tour with Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky and Dr. Ed McCoy of Ohio State University, this past February.

An endophyte, said Hurley, is a fungus that lives within the tissues of certain crops and plants. Starting just over a decade ago, breeders also began incorporating them into turfgrass seed to give cer-



Dr. Hurley: hunt continues for endophytes in Kentucky bluegrass

tain varieties of turfgrasses increased insect resistance. Actually, the endophytes themselves don't control insect pests, it's the alkaloid toxins the endophytes produce. The fungi, found in leaf sheaths and lower crown areas of turfgrass plants, have yet to be discovered in turfgrass roots.

That's why the fungi control above-ground insect pests and not grubs.

"So far we've done the easy stuff in just finding and identifying endophytes," said Hurley.

In answer to a question from the floor, Hurley cautioned anyone still holding 1993-crop turfseed with endophytes to use it this spring. Its effectiveness decreases with time, he said.

Also, he said that dollar spot control in high-endophyte fine fescue is now documented.

Work on endophytes, including efforts to find them in Kentucky bluegrass, will continue, Hurley said.

—Ron Hall

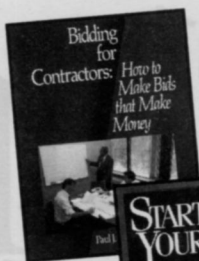
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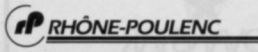
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Circle No. 129 on Reader Inquiry Card

Pruning, fertilization needed to repair cold damage

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.—This winter's record-breaking low temperatures, deep snow and ice storms took a toll on landscapes in many parts of the country, says Dr. J. Robert Nuss, professor of ornamental horticulture at Penn State University.

"(You) can expect damage from the cold and precipitation as well as injury caused by animals feeding on stems and trunks," says Nuss.

Plants are injured to some extent during all winters. "This winter, however, temperatures have dropped to -20° F or lower in many areas," says Nuss. "The deep snow has provided some insulation from the cold, but the hardiness limitations of many plants have been exceeded.

"During the past decade of mild winters, homeowners have planted more broadleaf evergreens and plants that may not have the hardiness tolerances for this winter's conditions. Don't be surprised if

these plants die," Nuss continues.

Low temperatures can kill leaf and flower buds, and destroy the tips of stems or the entire length of branches not covered by snow. Marginally hardy plants may be killed down to the soil line even though the stems and trunk may be snow-covered. In extreme cases, the root systems of delicate shrubs and trees may be destroyed.

Pruning is the only remedy for plant parts that have been chewed, broken or killed by the winter. Branches snapped by snow and ice should be removed immediately, and additional pruning can be done later in the spring to restore appearance.

"Don't try to prop broken parts back in place," says Nuss. "This only results in improper healing of the wounded area once growth begins in the spring."

Pruning low-temperature injuries must be done when buds fail to open. "Prune back to undamaged live wood, and if loss

of limbs and stems is severe, thin back remaining healthy stems to reshape the plant," says Nuss.

To reduce further stress and help rejuvenate surviving plants, give them a light application of a complete fertilizer early in the spring. Nuss recommends 5-10-10 at a rate of 1 lb./100 sq. ft., applied on the soil around the base of the plants, about six inches from the trunk.

"If it doesn't rain within a few days after fertilizer application, water the area well. Add a two- to three-inch layer of coarse textured mulch, such as shredded wood bark, over the entire rootzone."

Spring is also a good time to determine the quality of surviving plants. "Severely injured plants may never recover enough to be a useful landscape feature," says Nuss. "It may be better to replace them with new specimens or ones of a different variety."

Wisconsin eyes posting for homeowners

MADISON, Wis.—The Wisconsin Board of Agriculture on Feb. 22 began planning public hearings to allow cities to regulate lawn care pesticide applications by homeowners. Specifically, the regulations could require posting whenever homeowners (including a renter) make a pesticide application to their residential properties.

Posting would be needed to indicate homeowner pesticide applications to lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation growing in turf areas. Excluded are applications to houseplants, flower or vegetable gardens, greenhouses or nurseries. Also outside the scope of the regulations are: sub-soil injections, forest pest control, public health pest control, and injections to trees.

"In those municipalities that adopt ordinances, it will presumably increase customer demand for the free placards which pesticide dealers are currently required to offer persons buying landscape pesticides," says a memorandum from the Wisconsin Ag. Dept.

On Dec. 14, 1993, the state preempted most local government regulation of commercial pesticide applications, but homeowners weren't apparently covered by the state regulations. Stay tuned. That could soon change.

Paul Harvey continues pounding away at golf courses, 'pesticide poisoning'

CHICAGO—Radio commentator Paul Harvey, whose show is syndicated all across the country, again criticized golf course superintendents and their use of pesticides.

"Two years ago, you and I talked about the pesticide poisoning so many birds that our golf courses face a silent spring," Harvey began.

He then cited University of Iowa research (see last month's "Hot Topics"), drawing this conclusion from it: "Not only are golf course pesticides killing the birds, but they're killing golf course superintendents also."

Harvey finished his brief verbal assault with: "A moral needs to be underscored: we and the beautiful wild things live in harmony together, or we perish together."

Harvey's commentary, which was heard on flagship station WGN here on Feb. 8, drew an immediate response from RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) and the principal investigator for the University of Iowa study, both of which wrote letters to Harvey.

"Your commentary is inaccurate and misleading with respect to our study," Dr. Kross wrote. "I am very concerned

about your mis-representation of our study. The public does need to be informed about important environmental and occupational health issues. The media are important partners in disseminating accurate results of research studies. I request that you broadcast a corrected version of your commentary about our study."

The letter to Harvey from RISE dealt with some of the statements Harvey specifically made, but also issued a general response:

"You again make quantum leap assumptions regarding health and pest control on golf courses. Shame for using your popular program to raise unwarranted fears with erroneous and unsupported comments.

"What (the specialty pesticide industry) cannot welcome—nor should you be guilty of—are efforts to elevate highly preliminary unproven research into speculative assumptions that raise unwarranted fears among golfers—or any segment of our population."

The letter was signed by RISE executive director Allen James.

Harvey, as this issue went to press, had not yet responded on the air to Dr. Kross or RISE.