

Lawn association joins fight

\$10,000 set aside for legal challenge in New York

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America has earmarked \$10,000 toward the legal challenge of state law and state regulations in New York State.

The appeal, currently in the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, has implications for lawn care professionals nationwide.

The New York lawsuit represents a significant step in the struggle for reasonable regulation of the use of pesticides, both for

lawn care services and the entire green industry.

A 1987 law enacted by New York State plus further regulations enacted by the N. Y. Department of Environmental Conservation require customer contracts, prenotification and posting when pesticides are applied.

PLCAA, the New York Pesticide Coalition and other national trade associations feel the regulations and the law are unreasonable, overly broad and unjustified.

These regulations, it is felt, are an extension of the pesticide label and therefore only within the purview of the federal government, not individual states.

The lawsuit was unsuccessful in Federal District court, but the implications of such a decision on the rest of the country were considered so significant as to warrant appeal.

James R. Brooks, PLCAA executive vice president, may be contacted at 1-800-458-3466.

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Turf Valley exonerated

Investigators have found no evidence of employment discrimination at Turf Valley Country Club, whose manager reportedly made racist remarks last year that were accidentally recorded on a telephone answering machine, according to The Washington Post.

Jean Toomer, director of the

Howard County Human Rights Commission in Maryland, said an investigation into minority hiring practices at Turf Valley CC, near Ellicott City, showed that "blacks are present in the work force in numbers similar to general population statistics in Howard County."

The 17-page report continues: "While there are some job categories, such as officials and managers, professional and sales, which have few or no black employees, (the Human Rights Commission) was unable to determine whether this occurred by chance or . . . (was) due to discrimination because of the small numbers in each of those categories."

Of 168 full-time employees at Turf Valley, the report said, 52, or 30.9 percent, are black. Other minorities accounted for 6.5 percent. Lucie R. Pelgrim, a commission member, filed the complaint nearly a year ago.

The club is owned by Nicholas B. Mangione Sr. The question of employment discrimination at Turf Valley, a popular golf course, hotel and conference center, apparently touched off the racial remark incident last February.

Sherman Howell of Columbia, representing the local NAACP, called the club to ask about its hiring practices.

When Mangione's nephew, Frederick B. Grimmel Jr., a club manager, returned Howell's call, he inadvertently left a string of racial epithets on Howell's answering machine.

Black leaders led a boycott of the club, which many black groups are continuing.

Most other government, civic and business groups resumed their patronage of the club after Mangione apologized and fired Grimmel and the human rights office began its inquiry.

Grimmel has been rehired to what Mangione said is a different job.



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U.S.-Canada pact amends Seed Act

The Federal Seed Act regulations have been amended removing the requirement that seed imported into the United States from Canada be stained violet.

The rule had become effective when the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement went into force on Jan. 1. But its amendment was reported Jan. 31 in the Federal Register.

Comments on the interim rule had to be postmarked by Feb 28.