

# High Court ruling gives community pesticide laws precedence

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took precedence over local laws, according to Tom Delaney, Professional Lawn Care Association of America director of government affairs.

The Wisconsin court had agreed with Christmas tree farmer Ralph Mortimer that the town of Casey could not pass laws stopping him from spraying pesticides on his farm, Delaney explained.

"We're very disappointed with the decision," said PLCAA President Neal DeAngelo, whose association had successfully fought pre-

*'It scares the hell out of me. It's another step toward more regulations.'*

*— Charles Passios  
GCSAA directors'  
government liaison*

vious municipal attempts to preempt FIFRA. "We realize this will affect everyone who uses pesticides."

Passios and DeAngelo said they are encouraging members of both associations to inform their leader-

ship whenever localities are considering passing pesticide ordinances.

"The earlier we hear, the earlier we can help members deal with it," DeAngelo said. "The tools we can provide are primarily information



members can use to nip bad laws in the bud."

Meanwhile, the PLCAA will be fighting for local and state control on two fronts, according to Delaney.

First, FIFRA is up for Congressional re-authorization within the next two years. The PLCAA will attempt to get federal pre-emption language included, Delaney said.

"It will be a fight by both sides. I'm afraid Congress will have to see some of the problems local control will cause before it does anything,"

he said.

Second, state laws can be rewritten so they take precedence over local ordinances, Delaney said. The PLCAA is encouraging members to lobby their state legislators and regulators.

Delaney encouraged superintendents to monitor proposed local pesticide ordinances dealing with golf courses and other pesticide users.

"Municipalities may deal with homeowners one week, golf courses the next and somebody else the next.

"The philosophy is to divide and conquer. But it pays to get involved in the others' fight as well as your own," Delaney said.

"The GCSAA has been noticeably absent from federal meetings dealing with pesticides.

"It really hasn't been very active in cooperating with the other industry user groups."

## PLCAA hopes 'to meet the challenge' at conference

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's 12th annual conference will be held in conjunction with Green Industry Expo/91 in the Tampa (Fla.) Convention Center, Nov. 18-21.

The theme, "Meet the Challenge," describes the conference goals: to help lawn care companies meet the challenge of self-improvement, progressing to suit changing times, becoming better business leaders, learning more about turf research and new products, and finding ways to work together with each other to assure a strong future for lawn care professionals.

### EDUCATION GIVES AN EDGE

The lawn care business is constantly changing with new products and new techniques resulting from research every year.

"PLCAA members have every opportunity to get the competitive edge over their non-member competitors through education sessions covering topics of vital importance," according to Dale Lybarger, conference education chairman.

Some of the sessions scheduled by the Conference Committee, chaired by Daryle Johnson, are business basics, marketing, mixing pesticides and fertilizers.

Also, recycling systems, biostimulants, sprayer use and nozzle control, broadleaf weed control composting, nitrogen and pesticide movement, state pesticide issues and liability insurance.

