

Northwest Turf Show Feb. 17

SPOKANE, Wash. — The sixth annual Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show will be held here Feb. 17, at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds.

Aimed at turf industry professionals and landscapers, the show will feature a wide variety of turfgrass equipment and supplies. Admission is free and show hours will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30

p.m. on the 17th.

This show is sponsored by the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association (IEGCSA). According to show organizers, booth space is still available and can be reserved for as little as \$260.

For more information, contact Julie Boyce at the IEGCSA, 1708 North Lee St., Spokane, Wash. 99207; or call 509-534-4161.

IR-4 Project: Another chance

Continued from page 1

University in New Brunswick, N.J., the IR-4 Project is a federally funded program that performs testing on chemicals used exclusively on minor crops — situations where manufacturers can't justify their own testing because of expensive regulatory mandates passed down by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"We pay for the testing, well, the government pays for the testing with funds provided by the USDA," said Guest. "We are avail-

able when industry can't pay for the test required by EPA because it is not economically feasible.

"We usually do residue studies — for food crops — as well as performance and crop safety studies. Tests such as toxicology and environmental fate studies are generally beyond the scope of our project, although we often work with others to get these tests done. We closely coordinate our program with both the EPA and agrichemicals industry. Most of our research is carried out by state

and federal scientists with help from private industry."

When it comes to the chemical industry, the mother of all mandates is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Amendments to FIFRA in 1988 dictate that all chemicals registered with EPA before 1984 must be reregistered by 1997.

Dyrene, a long-used fungicide manufactured by Miles, is an example of a chemical that won't be reregistered because testing would cost in the neighborhood of \$6 million (*Golf Course News*, July 1992). Dyrene's market is very specific. Because the cost of reregistration is so exorbitant, Miles officials said they have no choice but to discontinue the product.

With 1997 looming in the distance, more and more effective, small-market fungicides face the same ignominious fate.

The folks at IR4 have already seen this troubling trend in the agricultural market, which comprises most of its "business." Artichokes and kohlrabi are such minor crops with such specialized pesticide needs, few producers can justify the cost of federal registration.

Since 1970, the IR-4 Program has developed data in support of more than 1,100 food use and more than 3,000 ornamental use registrations.

But these guys are scientists, not PR flacks.

"We have established an IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee," said Guest, "in order to be tuned into the needs of our constituents — farmers, nurserymen and turf specialists. We want these people to know what we do and how we can help them get registrations for their specialty crops."

IR-4 is a self-described "broad-based, grass roots" organization, whereby pesticide-research proposals are directed to an IR-4 network of state and federal liaison representatives and coordinators. Each request for research assistance is reviewed internally and with personnel of EPA, or the appropriate federal agency.

Projects are then prioritized by regional and national review committees prior to being accepted as candidate research projects. The process can be lengthy, said Guest, but the 1997 deadline would work in favor of the chemical manufacturer.

"The process is lengthy," said Guest, "but with a beefed up program we will meet the reregistration deadline."

For more information, contact Dr. Guest at 908-932-9575.

KOSTKA JOINS AQUATROLS

Aquatrols has named Dr. Stanley J. Kostka director of research. Kostka earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Massachusetts. He also has 32 publications to his credit in national and international journals. Prior to joining Aquatrols, Kostka was research manager with a major agriculture bio-technology company.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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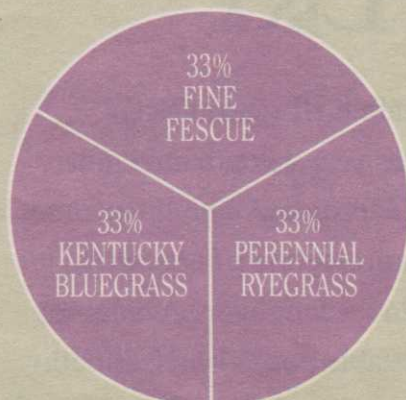
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