

3. Consider any idea on how to install the netting; do not rule out the "weird" idea.
4. Install netting on calm days.
5. Design the netting so it can be taken down and reinstalled easily.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Pesticide Law Bill (H.F. 485/S.F. 717)

Finally, the key bill for industry recently received hearings. On the House side, the bill was heard in a sub-committee of the Environment Committee. No opposition was voiced against the bill in the sub-committee; however, a few environmental groups wanted the regulations to go further in the areas of human exposure and penalties. Additionally, St. Paul and Minneapolis succeeded in getting an amendment to the bill exempting their local lawn pesticide ordinances from being pre-empted.

In the Senate, the Ag Committee held two hearings in one day and a third has been scheduled in a few days. There is no physical opposition to the Senate bill, but there are also a few groups who want the regulations to go further than proposed.

Issues that are being discussed:

-Human exposure. Senate version calls for a \$5,000 fine for applicators who spray field workers. Excludes drift, but includes overspray and target applications.

-Prima facie evidence. MPFCA is trying to get Sen. Berg and Rep. Kalis to drop wording which would make any drifting of pesticides a violation of law. Dept. of Ag agrees with our position but is not pushing it.

-Fees. MPFCA is very close to persuading the Dept. of Ag to set commercial applicator fees at \$50 per firm license and \$25 per applicator employee. Bill calls for a license fee of \$50 for all applicators.

-Trading services. Looks like Dept. of Ag will bend to farm groups request that farmers be allowed to continue trading application services without being licensed.

-Local ordinances. Probably the biggest disappointment to date. Minneapolis and St. Paul have the muscle in the legislature to kill the proposed bill without an exemption for their local pesticide regulation ordinances. As such, the lawn care and golf course groups are working on a set ordinance for ONLY TURF PESTICIDES which will be spelled out in the law. Only cities of the first and second classes (over 20,000 population) could adopt the ordinance outlined in the bill.

Note: With the recent groundwater problems in the state and the finger pointing at ag chemicals, the Pesticide Law bill is gaining more momentum each day. We just have to stay ahead of the crowd and beat off any bad amendments that may come up.

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