

EPA to Submit New Pesticide Regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency will submit to Congress within six months legislative proposals on pesticide use requirements, according to Carol Browner, EPA Administrator.

Browner said the proposals would focus on pesticide use reduction and on reform of the pesticide reregistration program, and would seek to improve pest management standards.

Browner made the remarks during an informal gathering of reporters.

Browner told the reporters that she wants "strong tools in terms of achieving a real reduction in pesticide use and in terms of putting responsibility on the chemical manufacturers in terms of getting out the information. We need to make decisions to provide the public health protection envisioned in the law in a timely manner."

EPA will submit a pesticide reform proposal that will include recommendations from EPA officials, the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As Browner explained it, the legislative proposals will alter the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

She added that those are the two laws that must be addressed to give the USDA, FDA and EPA the tools they believe are necessary for pesticide reduction. Browner did not say to what extent the laws could be changed or how drastic the legislative proposals will be.

She did say, however, that she was deeply committed to

the proposals and that the agency considers pesticide reduction a vital component of the agency's current mission. Michael Scott of EPA's Office of Communications and Public Affairs and who oversees the golf industry on behalf of the agency told GCSAA that he expected the action to have little direct impact on the golf course management industry.

"It's (the action) probably not going to have any direct effect on non-food crops," Scott said. "The only indirect effect that I can see it would have would involve chemicals that are used on both food and turf. Those chemicals could be subject to follow-up regulatory review, but it's really too early to predict what might happen."

Additionally, Browner said she will tell Congress and the public which statutory deadlines are not achievable, such as some associated with the Clean Air Act.

"I have been going back to all the people who care about a specific deadline and are trying to work through in a voluntary manner what we can do in terms of prioritizing and meeting deadlines and avoid spending our money litigating each other," she said.

Browner also said that she conducted an agency-wide base budget review in an effort to allocate resources properly. Administrators before her, she said, have never conducted such reviews. The result of the review is that the fiscal 1995 budget request that EPA plans to submit to the White House Office of Management and Budget will reflect the agency's best judgment on how to allocate resources, she said.



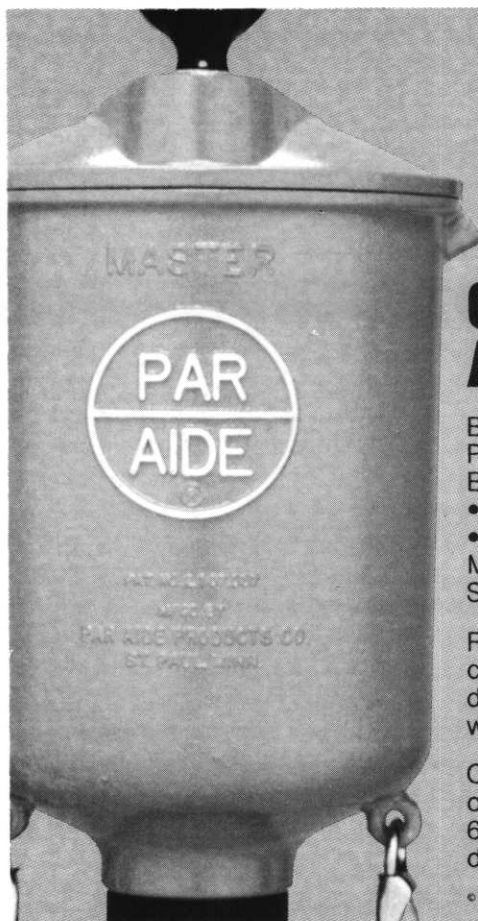
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