

FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Report will impact the turf industry

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold hearings on the Clinton administration's "reduced pesticide use initiative," according to Steve Johnson, EPA director of field operations for the Office of Pesticide Programs. The multi-agency initiative, formulated in response to the National Academy of Science (NAS) report on pesticide residues in the diets of infants and children, is designed to reduce the overall use of pesticides. The EPA will seek input from industry, and will offer a workshop on pesticide use reduction in January, 1994.

Johnson also indicated that the mandated re-registration of older pesticides, which were grandfathered during the initial setup of the EPA, was proceeding. More than 40 active ingredients have been processed to date.

In addition, a guide for the establishment of uniform regulations on lawn care application posting, pre-application notification, and registration of chemically sensitive individuals is in the draft stage. The guide (developed from industry focus groups and advisory councils) will provide a legislative manual for 20-odd states that do not currently have regulations covering these areas.

Additionally, the EPA announced that changes it was instituting in response to the NAS report would likely include:

- INCREASE TESTING for pesticide residues,
- EXPANDED REQUIREMENTS for pesticide use reporting,
- AND INCREASE SCRUTINY of minor use pesticides that are considered high risk materials.

In effect, the Clinton administration is revamping pesticide regulations, while scrapping the Delaney Clause. Under the plan, EPA will replace the absolutely no residue of potential carcinogens provisions of the Delaney Clause with a "minimal risk" standard for pesticide residues in the food supply.

Pesticides that do not meet the new standard will be removed from use more quickly than currently possible, and manufacturers will be required to re-register their pesticides every 15 years. Products that are not submitted for re-registration will be subject to immediate cancellation.

Bill would tax pesticides and fertilizers

A bill introduced in the U.S. Congress would tax pesticides and fertilizer components to provide funding for city water and sewer construction funds. By adding \$24.27 per pound of active ingredient on pesticides and \$.845 per pound of nutrient in fertilizer, HB 2199 would help raise \$4 billion dollars.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

JANUARY ISSUE

Biocontrols

Environmental regulations and related marketplace forces have complicated the use of pesticides. Biocontrols show promise, but are they a viable alternative? How will they fit in with the materials and practices already in use? Dr. Eric Nelson clarifies the scientific issues involved in this exciting new research.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Gary Studds (D-MA). If passed, it would add \$97.08 to the cost of one gallon of a typical 4E or 4S pesticide and \$14.79 to the average 50 lb. bag of 20-5-10 fertilizer. The legislation would, in effect, double the cost of pesticides and fertilizers.

New water pollution act introduced

The Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act of 1993 introduced by Senator Max Baucus (D-MN) would require that all state and federal water quality efforts be coordinated through a Water Quality Monitoring Council. The council would upgrade state regulations and projects for non-point water pollution control. It also would require EPA to identify 20 chemicals that pose the highest potential for toxic pollution and develop preventive strategies.

New wetlands policy proposed

The Clinton administration has proposed a new wetlands policy. Under the new policy previously converted wetlands would be grandfathered and given an exemption to the current re-establishment provisions. State and local governments would have expanded management roles in wetlands, and incentive programs to restore wetlands would be instituted by expanding the wetlands preserve program. Also, the current manual that defines a wetland would be scrapped in favor of the original 1987 definition, which will be superseded by an NAS study that is due in late 1994.

New off-road diesel standard proposed

EPA has proposed new standards for emissions from previously unregulated off-road diesel engines. Nationally, emissions from diesel engines in farm, turf, construction, and marine applications produce 9% of nitrous oxide air pollution. These first-time regulations apply to non-highway engines, and are expected to reduce their emissions by 37% by the year 2025.

STATE DEVELOPMENTS

More states pass pre-emption bills

The Illinois senate passed a bill (SB 85) that would prohibit local governments from passing any pesticide regulation legislations. The bill would require that "all pesticide regulations, including provisions for the registration, purchase, use, storage, and the disposal be handled by the state Department of Agriculture."

Three other Midwest states (Michigan, Nebraska, and North Dakota) have passed state pre-emption laws recently. Nebraska added a provision that all pesticide applicators within that state must become certified within 60 days of their employment. Two other Midwest states, Iowa and Wisconsin, and the state of Maryland are likely to pass pre-emption laws in 1994.

Ozone alert ban on landscape equipment proposed in DC

The Washington, D.C. area Council of Governments has proposed banning the use of gasoline powered commercial and residential lawn and garden equipment on "ozone alert days." The proposal is part of a plan to get the region to comply with the new federal clean air standards that mandate regional reductions in air pollution by 15% or loss of matching federal highway funding.

The proposed ban would restrict the use by homeowners of residential gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment on days forecast as ozone alerts. Commercial use of equipment would be limited to four out of five alert days. Each company would be assigned a number from one to five—with each alert day assigned a corresponding number. Company's whose assigned number matched the alert day assigned number would be banned from operating their equipment.

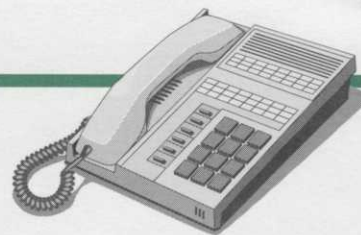
The council decided to propose this means of reducing the overall regional air pollution because it felt that the alternative, reducing the emissions from transportation, would be too costly. The Clean Air Act provisions take effect in November, 1996. ■

Thanks for all the calls

A number of *Turf Grass Trends*' original subscribers called to congratulate us on resuming publication. We appreciate your interest and support. We also appreciate your input.

Thanks from all of us. —JH

Who you gonna call?



GETTING CORRECT, current information is one way to purge the ghosts of unfounded rumors and other exaggerations. Here is a list of U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies and hotlines:

NAME	HOTLINE
RCRA/Superfund Hotline	800-424-9346
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Information Hotline	800-535-0202 (8:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m. EST)
EPA Safe Water Drinking Hotline	800-424-4791
EPA Storm Water Hotline	703-821-4616
Disposal of Hazardous Pesticides	800-262-8200
National Pesticides Telecommunications Network	800-858-7378
TSCA Assistance Office	800-424-9065

EPA REGIONAL OFFICES	PHONE	ADDRESS
Region 1 CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	617-565-4502	JFK Federal Bldg. Boston, MA 02203
Region 2 NJ, NY, Virgin Is., Puerto Rico	212-264-2515	26 Federal Plaza New York, NY 10278
Region 3 DE, MD, PA, VA, WV, DC	215-597-9904	Curtis Bldg., 6th & Walnut Sts. Philadelphia, PA 19106
Region 4 AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	404-347-3931	345 Courtland St., NE Atlanta, GA 30365
Region 5 IN, IL, MI, MN, OH, WI	312-886-6871	230 So. Dearborn St. Chicago, IL 60604
Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	214-655-2270	1201 Elm St. Dallas, TX 75270
Region 7 IO, KS, MO, NE	913-236-2806	324 E. 11th St. Kansas City, MO 64106
Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	303-293-1723	1860 Lincoln St. Denver, CO 80295
Region 9 AR, CA, HA, NV, Am. Samoa, Guam, Pacific Trust Territories, Wake Island	415-974-0577	215 Fremont St. San Francisco, CA 94105
Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA	206-442-1200	1200 Sixth Ave. Seattle, WA 98101

For information on state and local environmental regulatory issues, call your state department of agriculture or the environment. ■