

E.P.A. proposal

## Exempt some pesticides

Based on its belief that certain substances do not pose "unreasonable adverse effects" to the environment, the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) has proposed to exempt these substances from federal pesticide laws when they are used, sold or distributed as pesticide active ingredients. The substances listed in E.P.A.'s proposal include: castor oil, cedar oil, cinnamon, citric acid, citronella, cloves and clove oil, corn gluten meal, corn oil, cotteseed oil, dried blood, eugenol, garlic, geraniol, geranium oil, lauryl sulfate, lemongrass oil, linseed oil, malic acid, mint and mint oil, peppermint and peppermint oil, 2-phenethyl proprionate, potassium sorbate, putrescent whole egg solids, rosemary and rosemary oil, sesame, sodium chloride (table salt), sodium lauryl sulfate, soybean oil, thyme and thyme oil, white pepper, and zinc metal strips.

## USDA faces major reorganization

In the final days of its legislative session, Congress gave final approval to a major reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The legislation, which includes job cuts, consolidation of major farm programs, and a refocusing of the agencies priorities, gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad authority to restructure the department and eliminate waste. Turf Grass Trends will continue to monitor this USDA reorganization for developments that might affect our industry.

## On-line pesticide database created

Members of the U.S. crop protection industry have combined to provide a new medical information source on pesticide active ingredients and the appropriate medical treatment for exposures to these ingredients. Called MedTIP, this new service will supply information to third party on-line computer database providers at emergency medical facilities so that personnel can provide prompt and effective treatment to individuals suffering from pesticide exposures.

Penn State development

## Waste paper mulch

G. Hamilton, an instructor at Penn State, has developed a new waste paper mulch to be used in the establishment of turf from seed. The new, palletized mulch is thinly applied to newly seeded areas to enhance seed germination. Applied with conventional spreaders, the biodegradable mulch expands with exposure to water and holds water and a starter fertilizer for use by the seedling turf. This new mulch will provide many of the benefits of conventional mulching techniques but without the expensive equipment necessary for hydromulching.

## Golf course planning guide available

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has published the Golf Course Development Planning Guide which provides basic information for anyone who might consider developing a new course. Including sections on acreage, financing, and site location, the guide is a place to start your research. For a copy, contact ASGCA, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601, Tel: (312) 372-7090, Fax: (312) 372-6160.

## House panel approves pesticide analysis

In approving a bill strongly backed by the agriculture and chemical industries, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition has moved to reinstate true cost-benefit analysis in the regulation of pesticide products. This bill, H.R. 1627, would allow minute residues of potentially cancer-causing substances in both raw and processed food products so long as the risk to public health is negligible. Although this bill would finally give weight to both the risks and benefits of pesticides, it is opposed by the Clinton Administration and many environmental activist groups.