

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Door closed on warrantless inspections

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that Occupational Safety and Health Administration enforcement officials can be denied entry into a business if they lack a search warrant.

In a case which may set precedent over other types of inspections by government agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the high court called warrantless inspections unconstitutional as a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

Meanwhile, an EPA regional judicial officer in San Francisco required EPA inspectors to have warrants for searches to pest control operators and issue first-time warnings to label violators. The EPA case involves a fuzzy distinction between applicators and distributors, where distributors are subject to inspection and applicators are not.

Amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act have been in conference committee for months. Part of the holdup is wording which is meant to clarify the distributor/applicator status of pest control companies.

Labor reform act bogged down

Opponents of the Labor Reform Act have extended debate to block passage of the law until major changes can be made. Votes to stop debate take place daily, but fail by less than five votes. If cloture is obtained, more than 600 amendments to the bill have been prepared to slow down passage. The bill would make union organization of small businesses considerably easier than at present.

Fifth of restricted use products face cancellation

More than 300 of 1,600 restricted use products face cancellation because registrants have failed to file amended registrations or request hearings. EPA officials say the cancellation will not have a significant effect upon users because products identical to those in trouble are in compliance.

Conditional registration rules await FIFRA

Final conditional registration regulations will not be issued until the FIFRA bill is passed according to EPA officials. Regulations will ease registration of products identical or substantially similar to registered products or for new uses to registered products. However, such rules include aspects such as data compensation and elimination of redundant safety test data.

Illegal aliens subject of Senate action

U.S. Senate Bill 2252 now before the Judiciary Committee would fine employers up to \$1,000 for knowingly hiring an illegal alien. The law will require suitable identification documents so employers can determine the status of alien applicants. The Chamber of Commerce backs the bill saying illegal aliens deprive residents of jobs and opportunities.

RECLAMATION

Idaho foresters get revegetation results

University of Idaho forest management researchers have been studying an area in northern Idaho since 1972 to determine which species and planting methods can be used most successfully to revegetate the slopes and stream channels which have been damaged by mining and refining operations for almost a century.

"The results from the project have been very encouraging," says Roger Gordon, one of two research associates assigned to the project. "Certain species, including container-grown Ponderosa pine, Austrian pine and hawthorn, have had a high rate of survival in many test plots, and the mining companies have been able to use our findings to develop long-range revegetation plans for their lands."

TURF

Scotts gains label for *Ataenius* control

The Proturf Division of O. M. Scott & Sons has announced its Nematicide/Insecticide has received national registration for control of *Ataenius spretulus* larvae.

The product is applied as a granule which is watered into the turf rootzone after application. The active ingredient is ethoprop. It is not for use on bentgrasses, fine fescues, or ryegrasses.

AQUATICS

Tilapia fish has dual benefit

The *Tilapia*, a tropical fish originally from E. Africa, was successfully introduced into the United States in the 1950's as a control agent for weeds in irrigation canals in Southern California. Now, pending research, the fish may also become a harvestable resource.

The *Tilapia* has a spawning cycle of every 28 to 40 days and grows amazingly fast. Without harvesting, severe overpopulation would occur.