

UPDATE

Labor reform act has pro-union effect

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States says legislation currently before the Senate would make it much easier for a union to organize a non-union work force.

The Chamber's Labor Relations Attorney G. John Tysse told WEEDS TREES & TURF, "The greatest adverse effect will be on the smaller non-union company such as the landscaper. A provision in the Act permits union organizers to come on business property to talk to non-union employees if the owner talks to employees in the same way. An outdoor situation like landscaping makes it even easier."

Under the Act a union could force an election within 21 days of petitioning the National Labor Relations Board. "An employer hasn't enough time to react to union pressure in 21 days," Tysse stresses.

2,4,5-T RPAR involves 424 different products

A rebuttable presumption against registration issued by EPA last week against 2,4,5-T will affect more than 424 products of 122 companies and 21 products with former state registrations pending for federal registration. EPA cited "industry's apparent inability to produce 2,4,5-T without TCDD contamination" and said "TCDD must also be considered when assessing 2,4,5-T by the agency's risk criteria."

Oncogenic effects were a major factor for the RPAR. EPA summarized, "The studies indicated that 2,4,5-T containing less than 0.05 p.p.m. TCDD or TCDD alone have oncogenic effects in two mouse strains and one rat strain. Since 2,4,5-T, as currently formulated, contains TCDD (at a maximum amount of 0.099 p.p.m.), a rebuttable presumption against the registration of 2,4,5-T products has arisen because of the oncogenic effect of 2,4,5-T and its contaminant TCDD."

EPA bases none of its RPAR on bioaccumulation or other environmental effects, giving 2,4,5-T a clean bill in many studies cited in the RPAR. A National Academy of Sciences report was cited which said 2,4,5-T and TCDD have never been detected in drinking water in tests sensitive to parts per trillion. Concerning food EPA summarized, "FDA Market Basket Survey Samples from 1969 through July 1974 showed no 2,4,5-T residues (detection limit: 0.02 p.p.m.) in 155 total diet samples involving 1,869 food composites."

Rebuttals to the presumption against registration are due at the agency by June 5.

Reregistration costs may soar 50 percent

A draft of a report by EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs indicates that guidelines change could increase the cost of reregistration from \$691 million to \$949 million. The guideline changes involve Section Three of the revised Pesticide Law (FIFRA).

Some of the figures and assessments in the draft include:

- Cost of meeting the guidelines' data requirements for new active ingredient nonfood use, \$375,000.
- Consumer costs of the guidelines, 10¢ to 35¢ per capita per year during the 1980's.
- For a major agricultural pesticide, the one-time cost of compliance with the guidelines, including filling data gaps, would be about \$1 million.
- Some very small formulators, which, for example formulate only one product, might go out of the pesticide business if they have to meet the data requirements of the guidelines.

TURF

Adjuvants may reduce crabgrass germination

Tests conducted under growth chamber and greenhouse conditions at the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station has shown that several wetting agents can be effective in reducing germination of hairy crabgrass seeds, according to Dr. William H. Mitchell, University of Delaware turf specialist. Mitchell's tests have shown that both dormant and geractively germinating seed are damaged by wetting agents. However, there was rarely a complete kill in any given test.

Subjecting treated seed to sub-freezing temperatures for a period of 12 hours increased the effectiveness of the wetting agent. Since crabgrass plants are easily destroyed by freezing temperatures, Dr. Mitchell speculates that using wetting agents prior to cold weather may have the effect of triggering germination, thus setting the stage for further seed damage.

Dr. Mitchell presented information regarding his research at a recent meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Part of this research has been supported by a grant from the Delaware Turfgrass Association.

LAWN CARE

Manufacturers form lawn and garden group

An association of lawn and garden manufacturers was formed in April with the goal of establishing a cohesive force that will further the growth of the lawn and garden industries.

The Lawn and Garden Manufacturers Association is headquartered in Chicago according to LAGMA President Edward Scofield, executive vice-president of Rapid-Gro Corp., Danville, Ill.

The group's vice-president, E. Olansky of Science Products Co., Chicago, said there has been great interest in membership and that a number of working committees have already been formed. Interested persons may contact LAGMA, One Illinois Center, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

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