

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

IRRIGATION

Texas A&M, Toro to study water use

A contribution to Texas A & M University by the Toro Company will help finance a four-year study of water use rates for turf-grasses. The work will be directed by Dr. James Beard and was conceived by graduate student Don Johns.

The purpose of the study is to improve water irrigation efficiency and to help identify water requirements of certain turfgrass cultivars.

TREE

Arborists report growth in volume

Despite bad spring weather, arborists are reporting growth in business volume this year. A survey conducted by the National Arborist Association revealed that more than 75 percent of arborists are experiencing increased volume in tree spraying, trimming and general tree care.

However, arborists indicated a reduction or no increase in landscaping work. Only Midwest arborists said they experienced an increase in landscaping work for the first half of 1978.

The arborists expect the remainder of the year to produce excellent sales.

TREES

Funds appropriated for chestnut blight

Funding proposed by Sen. Robert Byrd (D) of West Virginia has been appropriated for research on a possible solution to chestnut blight at the Northeast Forest Experiment Station in Morgantown, W.Va.

The research to be performed by West Virginia University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute researchers centers around a strain of the chestnut blight and a phenomenon called hypovirulence. Strains of the disease can actually heal chestnut blight cankers. The object is to isolate this strain and produce it for use against the blight.

Options sought for disposal regulations

Triple rinsing as a label requirement is one option to proposed pesticide container disposal regulations termed not enforceable by EPA's Office of General Counsel.

The lawyers said FIFRA is a labeling act and enforcement is legal only in cases of label violations. Current proposed regulations do not involve specific labeling instructions and therefore would be not enforceable nor would they mean criminal penalty. Pesticide suppliers may be asked to implement recycling programs under options being considered by EPA.

Conference Committee agrees on state primacy

The House-Senate Conference Committee reviewing FIFRA amendments agreed that states with approved plans will be the primary enforcers of FIFRA. The committee also defined pest control operators as commercial applicators and not distributors subject to warrantless inspection and stiffer penalties.

Thirty states have approved pesticide use plans and therefore will come under the primacy rule if the amendments are approved by the House and Senate and signed by the President. States without approved plans will be subject to Federal enforcement. A condition permits Federal intervention in the case of emergencies.

Inconsistent use exceptions settled

The House-Senate Conference Committee has reached an agreement on proposed FIFRA legislation regarding use inconsistent with the label. If passed by House and Senate and signed by the President, the exceptions will be:

- using a pesticide at less than label concentration
- mixing pesticides with fertilizer if not specifically prohibited by the label
- applying a pesticide for a target pest not listed on the label providing the application is to a labelled crop, animal or site and the label does not specifically prohibit use against that target pest
- using a method of application not listed on the label.

Cloture fails again, labor bill delayed

The controversial, pro-union Labor Reform Bill will not be passed this year because an effective filibuster and failure to invoke cloture have made a final vote impossible.

OSHA permits access to safety records

Rules have been revised by OSHA permitting worker access to the employer's log of job-related injuries and illnesses. All employers with 11 or more employees must maintain such records under law.