

Landscape Contractor News

Construction council backs local compensation

The National Construction Industry Council (NCIC) voiced its opposition to a national workman's compensation law in a position paper at its recent quarterly meeting, citing flexibility of current state laws and the cost of a national law. Many groups, including the National Chamber of Commerce, have opposed a national compensation law.

In other action, the NCIC will soon have a representative on the Advisory Council to the Council on Wage and Price Stability. The Associated Landscape Contractors of America is a member of the NCIC and will therefore have a voice in wage and price recommendations.

Part-time workers provide advantages

A study by Georgetown University's School of Business has revealed that part-time workers provide savings because of lower fringe benefit costs, reduced overtime, and higher productivity. The U.S. Department of Labor sponsored study also cited problems of supervision and paperwork with part-time workers.

Interior landscapers to meet in St. Louis

The 1979 Interior Landscape Symposium will be held at the Bel Air Hilton in St. Louis, Sept. 19-21. The Associated Landscape Contractors of America are sponsoring the event and its Interiorscape Committee is conducting the symposium.

The three-day symposium will cover a wide range of topics for the interiorscape industry. Its three major focus areas are: maintenance for interior landscapes, interior foliage environment, and bidding and estimating interior projects. An optional half-day tour of noteworthy interior landscape projects in St. Louis will immediately follow the final session.

The "Environment for Interior Foliage Plants" segment will feature a program on "Acclimatization" presented by Leonard Kersch (Garden Milieu, Inc.), and a panel session on "Lighting" moderated by Richard L. Gaines (Interior Plantscaping Consultants).

"Bidding & Estimating" will be a full program presented by a panel of three — a financial consultant, a small-to-medium interiorscape contractor, and a large interior contractor. The three will discuss the process of developing an estimate and bidding on a project, and then will moderate an estimating exercise with the whole audience. For their example they'll use a set of job specifications and a typical contractor's company profile.

"Maintenance for Interior Landscaping" will encompass a series of short presentation on all aspects of interiorscape maintenance: maintenance personnel, crew structures, uniforms, vehicles, procedures manual, work scheduling, client-contact relations, and supervisors.

Discount credit rate for AAN members

Under a plan from the American Association of Nurserymen, the discount rate for VISA and Master Charge credit sales is 1.95 percent for all members desiring to participate.

The AAN received the discount rate after signing a contract with First American Bank, McLean, Va., to handle all VISA and Master Charge sales. The discount rate is the amount deducted from the bank card charges submitted by retail firms to the bank which accepts and processes the charges.

A recent survey of association members showed the average annual volume of sales on VISA and Master Charge is about \$50,000 per firm, and the average discount being paid is slightly over 3.5 percent. An AAN firm which fits this description could save as much as \$775 a year by participating in this new program.

Jacklin Seed Co. and Pickseed have reported that excessive rain last summer and fall prevented good burns to clean the fields. Doyle Jacklin said the availability of seed will drop as early as November when stocks in storage become depleted. Prices have already increased to slow demand.

Higher production costs and attractive beef prices diverted tall fescue production to feed in the Midwest according to Herman Schulte of Mid Continent Seed Co., in Marshall, MO. Tall fescue prices are expected to reach 45 cents per lb. and level off.

HERBICIDES

Expanded label for ornamental spray

Orthene insecticide has been granted an expanded Tree and Ornamental Spray label by the EPA, according to the manufacturer, Chevron Chemical Co.

The new label will add a significant number of pests. These include aphids on trees and shrubs, tent caterpillars, leafrollers, adult root weevils, and the Nantucket pine tip moth larvae. The spray will also control lace bugs, webworms, scales (crawlers), Birch leafminer, and Douglas fir tussock moth larvae.

For outdoor floral crops, Orthene is now labeled to control lygus bugs on daisies, statice, and yarrow. It is also usable for mealybugs, whiteflies, thrips, and scales on all foliage plants plus orchids, anthuriums, cacti, and poinsettia.

INSECTS

Busier bees make better pollinators

It may be possible to breed busier bees that do more pollinating.

Scientists at the USDA Bee Breeding and Stock Center Laboratory in Baton Rouge, La., are cooperating in a research project on honey bees with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Experiment Station.

Honey bees are responsible for pollinating millions of acres of crops worth trillions of dollars. Even though agriculture has become increasingly mechanized, no substitute for these insect laborers has been found — nor is any likely to be discovered.