

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Timing of Silvex suspension inconsiderate

EPA's Deputy Administrator Barbara Blum said 2,4,5-T was banned recently to protect citizens from another spring exposure, but it also caused retail nurserymen to get stuck with brand new inventories.

The emergency ban came after most businesses had ordered and received 2,4,5-T products, but before they could sell any of it. Storage space, often critically short, is occupied with products that can't be sold for a period through August at the shortest.

Criticism of the chemical, brought mainly by instances of disruption of pregnancy near forests treated with 2,4,5-T, has been voiced for a considerable length of time. Had there been real question about the chemical's safety, an early suspension could have saved businesses from wasted inventory expense and storage space.

2,4,5-T hearings begin, three judges involved

In an unusual move, EPA has assigned three administrative law judges to hear representatives from 30 firms defending continued use of 2,4,5-T and opponents. Usually one judge is involved, but EPA says three judges were needed due to the volume of information to be heard and the complexity of the overall situation.

The judges must make a decision by July, and EPA Administrator Costle must announce his decision by August. Until then, the products remain on emergency suspension.

A federal court in Flint, Michigan, denied a request by Dow Chemical Co., to lift the ban on some products containing 2,4,5-T.

Alternatives to Silvex described

Margaret Herbst of the New York State Nurserymen's Assoc. has released a list of substitutes for 2,4,5-T for use until the suspension is resolved. They are Am Chem's Super D Weedone, Acme's Weed No More, and Spectrum 33 Plus by Ciba Geigy Corp.

Disposal guidelines stepped up

Embarrassed by national television coverage of problem toxic chemical disposal sites, EPA is stepping up its effort to watch over all old and new hazardous material dump sites. Deputy Administrator Barbara Blum announced that efforts will be made to speed up a plan to monitor and enforce disposal regulations in hazardous waste dump sites. Currently, the program was not expected to take effect until next year.

Blum estimated there are 800 known hazardous waste dump sites, and thousands of unknown older sites which need checking. Blum has requested more money and more lawyers to bolster enforcement activity.

the seminar speaker at the Pacific Horticultural Trade Show, September 6-8, at the Long Beach Convention Center. He will discuss the "Survival of the Independent Nursery and Lawn and Garden Retailer."

Greenidge has conducted lawn and garden management seminars across the United States and has also directed several national surveys sponsored by the Lawn & Garden Distributors Association.

The show is being sponsored by the California Association of

Nurserymen. For further information contact trade show manager Richard C. Staples, 1419 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call (916) 443-7373. For hotel information call the Long Beach Convention Center Information Bureau at (213) 436-3645.

New from page 14

According to Turfco President Bill Kaercher.

The Sod Master line includes the Metermatic Topdresser for golf greens, the Edgerrite sandtrap edger, the Sub-Air aerator for deep aerification, the Bantam sod cutter for small sod nurseries, and the Pipe Piper vibratory wire and pipe installer.

Jacobsen bought Sod Master in 1969 and merchandised the line through its distributors. Turfco purchased Sod Master prior to the recent purchase of Jacobsen by Textron. The Sod Master name, production facilities, and many of the distributors will remain the same. The color of the equipment will be changed to deep brown and light tan.

Kaercher said changes will include new distributors and new products, including a topdresser for the EZ Go truck. Turfco's address is 3456 Washington Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55412.

GOLF

Alexander to manage Sea Pines golf courses

Dr. Paul Alexander, a specialist in golf agronomy, has been named vice-president of golf at the Sea Pines Plantation Co., Hilton Head, S.C. Alexander had previously been with Sea Pines from 1973-1974 as staff vice-president for agronomy.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State University Alexander served on the botany and plant pathology staff at Clemson University until 1969 and headed Clemson's turfgrass management program.

Before joining Sea Pines in 1973 he had been director of education for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Alexander received his bachelor of science degree in horticulture from California State Polytechnic College and a master of science degree in botany and plant pathology from Ohio State University.

HORTICULTURE

Independent nursery survival topic of Pacific show

Charles D. Greenidge, prominent management consultant for the lawn and garden industry, will be