

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Industry leaders decry proposed spray ban

A national outcry has emerged from Green Industry leaders and representatives over a petition to severely limit spraying of pesticides.

The petition, submitted in May, 1979 by Friends of the Earth (FOE) to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration received some 4,000 responses. It requests that pesticide labels prohibit aerial and ground rig application unless the applicator obtains advance written permission from people who live or own property within a given distance of the spray area boundary.

It has evoked a vehement response to industries involved in spraying. For some, the petition could mean an almost complete shutdown of work. To others, it represents another of a series of environmentalist efforts to halt the use of pesticides.

One reason the industry feels particularly victimized by the joint EPA/FAA petition is that it was published under the Proposed Rules section of the January 17 Federal Register. It should have appeared in the Notices section. EPA has received a number of communications from people who have seen or heard of the Federal Register notice and are concerned the EPA is proposing to comply with it.

Beyond this bumble, though, the petition angers Green Industry members because it suggests a dramatic change in their operation. It would require any applicator to receive permission when spraying within 250 feet of a lot with ground equipment and 1,000 feet when applying with mist blowers or aerial applicators.

According to the American Association of Nurserymen, the proposal would mean garden center or landscape nurseries would have to be in excess of 1.4 acres before there would be one square foot that could be treated without permission. With mist blower sprayers or aerial applicators, it would require at least 22.95 acres in a perfect square before

there would be any land free of adjacent property owners.

In the East and other areas where properties are particularly close, the proposal would indirectly stymie the use of pesticides, the actual goal of the petition, according to a Cornell University researcher. He foresees a full array of new insect, disease, and weed problems on golf courses, parks, forest lands, and most farms.

"The 250-foot range makes it necessary for maybe five approvals on each side," says Maria Cinque, extension agent for Nassau County, NY. "I think many of the urban areas will have this problem. The danger is that if only one person says no, all spraying could be stopped."

An official from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America says that landscapers providing guarantees would be affected and maintenance contracts would be severely impacted. If a contractor can't spray trees or shrubs or has to revert to a cumbersome spraying process, the more labor involved will multiply the costs of treatment.

Arborists are also very concerned about the potential effects of the petition. Earl Sinnamon, chairman of

the NAA's pesticide committee, says there is no way to spray tall trees without some drift. Executive Secretary Bob Felix says that arborists recognize the problem and see alternatives. "We are continuing our aggressive pursuit of Integrated Pest Management strategy," he says. "We should be looking down the road with that eventuality coming upon us."

No decisions will be made on the Friends of the Earth petition for several months. The EPA and particularly the FAA are reviewing the approximate 4,000 comments received with close scrutiny. They realize it is a highly polarized issue with broad implications.

When the federal agencies received the petition, they already had undertaken programs to resolve the whole question of spray drift. And when it comes time to decide on a policy, the agencies may not even mention the Friends of the Earth. Yet the FOE petition, for all its publicity, may serve to unite the Green Industry. It will be time to write again when the federal agencies ask for comments on the general rule it proposes.



**Throwing the switch** to a 60-foot windmill which will generate energy for a solar greenhouse is Cal Poly's president, Dr. Warren J. Baker. Others, from left, are Ronald Regan, head of the Ornamental Horticulture Department; Dr. Howard C. Brown, dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Marshall Ochylski, ornamental horticulture faculty member.

# LANDSCAPE

## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### GOLF

#### **McLoughlin named GCSAA exec director**

James E. McLoughlin has been chosen as the new Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents of America, said GCSAA President Melvin B. Lucas Jr.

McLoughlin is well known in the national golf community, having served as executive director of the prestigious Metropolitan Golf Association since 1966. He will begin his duties with GCSAA this September.

Lucas said, "The future welfare of the golf, club, and turf industries will require greater communications among all golf-related organizations in the years ahead, and often, a common effort. Jim McLoughlin's diversified background will facilitate GCSAA's support of this concept."

McLoughlin has served on the board of governors and is currently a member of the National Club Association's long range planning committee. He is a past president of the International Association of Golf Administrators and is chairman of its national liaison planning committee. He cofounded and served on the faculty of the Manhattanville College Club Management Program, a continuing education program designed specifically for the golf club community, which has been attended by many golf course superintendents.

### IRRIGATION

#### **Symposium planned for Nebraska Center**

The Second National Irrigation Symposium has been scheduled at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education (NCCE), University of Nebraska, Lincoln for October 20-23.

The program will include presentations on current irrigation practices, irrigation development during the 70's, current significant research, and potential future developments.

### HONORS

#### **Chemical Association elects new chairman**

The Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) recently elected H. Barclay Morley, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of

#### **Interior Landscape will meet in Denver**

"Prospering in an Uncertain Economy" is the theme of the 1980 Interior Landscape Conference scheduled for the Fairmont Hotel in Denver, Sept. 10-13.

A wide range of speakers will discuss the economic climate's impact on interior landscape firms, foliage technology, personnel administration, promotion, and selling. The conference will also feature a business meeting and presentation luncheon, at which exhibiting firms will show new developments in their products and/or services.

At least 50 leading suppliers and manufacturers will display their products and services for the industry at the trade exhibit on Thursday. Program chairmen are expecting a record turnout, possibly 400 people.

Complete information and registration materials for the 1980 Interior Landscape Conference of ALCA is available from: Interior Landscape Div., 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102, 703/821-8611.

#### **Author to address California landscapers**

Author William Whyte will keynote the 1980 California Council of Landscape Architects annual conference scheduled for October 19-21 at the Asilomar Conference Center on the Monterey Peninsula.

White, who wrote "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces," will show a film he made of New York street life which analyzes public places and why people do or don't use them.

Panels will provide discussion on resource conservation and licensing and legislation. Other topics include microclimate modification for human comfort and a presentation by Sunset Magazine on problems landscape architects have preparing photos for publication.

For more information, contact conference chairpersons Leah Haygood (415/841-5154) or Deb Mitchell (415/821-3500).

#### **Productivity marks ASLA board meeting**

The American Society of Landscape Architects' Board of Trustees covered a multitude of items at its mid-year meeting held in Kansas City during May.

The discussion included the new headquarters building, membership, unification with the American Institute of Landscape Architects and changes in the constitution and "Emeritus Status" bylaw. Executive Director Ed Able reported that in the past 12 months, ASLA membership has increased 14.2 percent, and the current number of dues-paying members stands at 4,876.

#### **ALCA's Interior Div. names chairman**

The Associated Landscape Contractors Interior Landscape Division installed a new chairman and embarked on its first full year of operation as an independent arm of ALCA at the group's 1980 annual meeting in San Diego.

Laine Craft, owner/manager of Living Interiors, Lake Park, FL, was installed as chairman of the I.L. for 1980.

According to Craft, I.L.D. programs for the year include: several one-day interior Maintenance Technicians Short Courses, management-oriented seminars, and the first annual Interiorscape Conference this fall in Denver.

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

### Senate panel votes for chemical cleanup

The Senate Environment Committee recently approved a tough hazardous waste bill which would force chemical companies to annually contribute \$700 million to a new federal superfund.

The bill would open chemical companies and their customers to a new round of government and private lawsuits over damage caused by toxic waste spills around the country. It is much tougher than an earlier bill proposed by the House Commerce Committee.

The measure would impose "strict liability" for damages—which means that plaintiffs wouldn't have to prove that negligence was involved in a waste spill—on companies that contributed to a hazardous emission. Such suits could be filed against the owners or operators of dump sites, the companies that generated the waste or contracted for its disposal, or the concerns that transported it.

A spokesman for the Chemical Manufacturers Association said that the Senate is asking the chemical industry to cover for 17 industries, such as hospitals, and steel mills, and others involved with chemicals. A new company would have to contribute to cleanup of pre-existing spills.

### Mondale, Bergland dedicate herb garden

Joan Mondale, honorary chairwoman of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities, and Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland dedicated the new National Herb Garden at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

In the dedication, Mondale placed the final plant, a dwarf blue cypress, into an intricately patterned knot garden, one of the major features of the garden. The herb garden covers about two acres in a meadow of the 444-acre arboretum.

Bergland said the Herb Society of America raised over \$300,000 for the garden, which was then supplemented by \$200,000 in federal funds.

### Senate acts to perk interest in patents

To stimulate both production and innovation, the Senate recently passed a measure that would allow small businesses to retain title to inventions they develop using federal research funds.

Under current law, the government owns more than 28,000 patents, but of that number, only 4% have been commercially exploited. Business owners complain that investments in new product developments are unattractive without exclusive rights to the patents. While some government agencies award exclusive licenses, others do not.

### EPA asks ban on most uses of lindane

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to ban most uses of lindane, a pesticide used in a number of household products, in agriculture, and for treating hardwood logs and lumber.

The agency has invited Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. of Niagara Falls, NY, the only U.S. manufacturer of lindane, and other interested parties to comment on the proposal.

Some of the areas EPA would ban lindane use are: all seed treatments, Christmas trees, home applications on ornamental plants and trees, in forestry, and on hardwood logs, lumber, and in structures.

Stauffer Chemical Co., as its new chairman of the board. It also honored The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, MI, and Virginia Chemicals, Inc., Portsmouth, VA, for the 1980 Safety Awards at its annual meeting in White Sulphur Springs, WV.

William G. Simeral, senior vice president of E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, was elected vice chairman of the board.

Paul F. Oreffice, president and chief executive officer of the The Dow Chemical Company, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

Robert A. Roland was re-elected president of the association, and 19 members were newly elected to the board of directors.

The awards are made to CMA member companies that show the greatest percentage reduction rates of occupational injuries, deaths, and illnesses in a five year span. The Dow Chemical Company led the larger company category with 57 percent injury reduction, and Virginia Chemicals had 38 percent reduction in the smaller company category.

CMA is also presently planning for the 1981 awards to high school, two-year and four-year college chemistry and chemical engineering teachers. United States and Canadian teachers with a minimum of 10 years teaching experience are eligible for the national awards.

Nominations must be received by CMA by Feb. 1, 1981. For further information contact Dr. Robert E. Varnerin, CMA, 1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20009.

## PLANTS

### GCA Survey shows foliage plant sales up

Overall sales of foliage plants increased last year, according to the 70 firms responding to a management survey taken by Garden Centers of America (GCA) in February.

Thirty-seven percent of these firms showed increases between 10 and 25 percent; however, 59 percent of the respondents said such sales represent 10 percent or less of their total 1979 sales.

When asked by GCA members what size plants make better sales items, the retailers' response was: plants in 6-10 inch pots are 26 percent; 3-6 inch pots 21 percent; 3 inch

*Continues on page 63*

pots 19 percent; larger containers 12 percent; and hanging baskets 19 percent of the total foliage plant sales.

The majority of foliage plants sold by retailers come from outside sources, rather than company-grown stock, according to the survey results.

ELECTIONS

**Howell new president of Perlite Institute**

William R. Howell, Perlite Ore products manager of the Minerals Division, Grefco., Inc., Oak Brook, IL, was elected President of the Perlite Institute at its 31st annual meeting.

Howell, who has been associated with the Perlite industry since 1946, last year received the Lewis Lloyd award, which is the highest honor that is granted by the industry.

The Perlite Institute is an international trade association of producers, expanders, and applicators. Members in 22 countries establish product standards and specifications and encourage the development of new products through research and marketing activities.

INDUSTRY

**OPEI reports increase in power products**

Industry shipments of lawn and garden power products have increased 4.7 percent this year in an eight-month period from September, 1979 through April, 1980, according to estimates made by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

The largest increase estimated by OPEI was in the shipments of the walk-behind rotary tillers, which was 11 percent over last year's units. Walk-behind power lawn mowers increased 4.5 percent.

Although garden tractor shipments registered a small decline, lawn tractors and riding mowers grew 3.6 percent. Front-engine riders advanced 3.6 percent and rear-engine riders 2.6 percent.

FERTILIZERS

**Allied Chemical plans big research program**

Allied Chemical Corporation is planning a \$3.4 million fertilizer "forward research" program with \$1.2

million of it going to foliar fertilizer technology research.

According to Dr. Ramon Garcia, manager of Agricultural Research and Development, part of Allied's fundamental fertilizer research projects will concentrate in the areas of energy conservation, fertilizer efficiency, and breakthrough technology for yield increases.

Garcia says, "The company may

add substantial research dollars during the decade to develop new fertilizer technology that will be needed to deal with increasing demand for world food supplies, rising energy costs, and fertile soil losses."

Another important portion of the "forward research" program, says Garcia, is that it will be carried out by universities across the country, under grants from Allied Chemical.

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