

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

EMPLOYEES

Nurserymen offer personnel workshop

The American Association of Nurserymen has developed a personnel management workshop to help its members learn how to manage and motivate employees.

The three-day course, known as the Professional Effectiveness Program, or PEP, has been conducted successfully in various parts of the country. It will be held in Columbia, MD, Jan. 19-21 and again in Hyannis, MA, Feb. 17-19.

For information on the programs, contact Bob Fortna at the American Association of Nurserymen, 230 Southern Bldg., Washington, DC 20005, 202/737-4060.

COMPANY

Wisconsin Marine, Inc. changes name

Wisconsin Marine, Inc. of Johnson Creek, WI, manufacturers of Bob-Cat lawnmowers and snow throwers, has changed its name to Ransomes Inc.

The name change follows the development of a new corporation, which is a subsidiary of Ransomes Sims and Jeffries Ltd. of Ipswich, England. With this new affiliation, the company will retain its separate management and control.

"The new alignment of this corporation expresses our complete dedication to the lawn and turf industry," says Dane T. Scag, chairman of the board. "The same strong commitment to serve the industry exists in Ransomes Inc."

INGENUITY

Engineer proposes use for Silvex disposal

Home and garden fertilizer made with Silvex, which has been banned and must be disposed of, could be formulated with sludge to reforest land that's been ravaged by Mt. St. Helens, says a civil engineer in Portland, OR.

George Ward says his work shows that 99.9 percent of the herbicide, including the dioxin contained in it, will be completely degraded within 60 days after it is spread on the ground.

At a rate of 300 pounds per acre of the material, it will take nearly 29 million pounds to fertilize the most severely damaged area of the mountain. Approximately 36 million pounds of the Silvex-formulated fertilizer are now stored at different locations in the U.S. waiting to be disposed of.

President signs Regulatory Flexibility Act

President Carter has signed the Regulatory Flexibility Act (S. 299) which requires regulatory agencies to address the special problems of small businesses in any new regulations. In addition, agencies would have to review all existing rules which adversely affect a small business.

Railroad regulatory reform bill passes

The Railroad Regulatory Reform bill (PL 96-448) was signed into law in October.

Basically, the bill gives railroads greater price-setting flexibility with less interference from the Interstate Commerce Commission. The legislation also attempts to promote competition among railroads and protect those shippers who are dependent solely on railroads for their transportation needs.

President signs Crop Insurance bill

President Carter has signed the Federal Crop Insurance Act which was recently passed by both the House and Senate after a two-year battle.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ed Jones (D-TN) and Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-KY), was amended on the House floor by Congressmen Panetta (D-CA) and Coehlo (D-CA) to specifically include nursery crops.

Participation in this program is voluntary, but it could provide nurserymen with savings on their insurance. The bill states that the Federal government will pay 30 percent of the premium for coverage up to 65 percent of the normal crop yield. Private insurers will be able to underwrite this insurance.

Director of National Arboretum retires

Dr. John L. Creech, director of the U.S. National Arboretum and one of the world's best-known horticulturists, has retired.

Dr. Creech began his career with the Department of Agriculture in 1947, and has held several positions in the department's plant science programs. He is recognized as a world leader in the field of plant explorations for ornamentals, specializing in the wild and cultivated ornamental trees and shrubs of the Far East, particularly azaleas, camellias, and hollies.

Congress gets veto power on EPA regs

A House-Senate Conference Committee has granted Congress the power to veto certain Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The measure was approved to extend legislation, which is part of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, through September 1981. Both the Senate and House of Representatives must approve the conference report and President Carter must sign it before it becomes law.

The legislative veto provision obligates the EPA administrator to submit proposed rules and regulations under the FIFRA Act for congressional review. If Congress adopts a resolution which disapproves an EPA rule or regulation within 90 days, it would not become effective.

The rule could also become effective after 60 calendar days of continuous sessions by Congress if no committee or House reports a concurrent resolution of disapproval, or if neither house adopts such a resolution.