

# GOVERNMENT UPDATE

## Law orders labeling of service containers

Regulations have been adopted in California to require that service labels include the identity of the person responsible for the containers, the identity of the pesticide byproduct or common name and concentration, and the signal word which describes the toxicity of the pesticide.

Regulations for all service containers, those other than the original labeled containers that are used to hold, store, or transport pesticides or pesticide dilutions. In addition, the regulations require that a copy of the registered label be present at each mixing and application site where service containers are used.

In the case of spills or other contamination, the labels will permit prompt identification of the pesticide involved so that appropriate action can be taken to protect public health.

## Tax credit program helps hiring unskilled

Mike Jones, owner of a professional landscaping and grounds maintenance company in Tacoma, WA, will be receiving tax credits for hiring employees who might not be able to find full-time work or have a chance to learn a valuable skill.

Jones has hired disabled people, ex-felons, and those without proven abilities for years in his Grow It Green business. The Employment Security Department in Washington State will now be giving him and other private employers tax credit for training and providing opportunities for people who need jobs and want to work.

The credit can mean a tax savings totaling as much as 50 percent of wages up to \$6,000 for each eligible employee in the first year of employment. In the second year, the tax credits amount to 25 percent of that amount.

According to Dr. Eugene Wiegman, commissioner of Employment Security, the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit paperwork is straightforward in application. An eligible worker is given a voucher informing potential employers that he or she is a member of a "targeted group." When the person is hired, the voucher is endorsed by the employer and returned to the Employment Security Department. There are no other obligations or restrictions. Employers receive the tax credit directly through the Internal Revenue Service.

Targeted Jobs Tax Credit is a national program available in all states. Information on the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit is available from your state Employment Security Department or the local office of the Internal Revenue Service.

## Strip miner group wins in land restoration suit

A federal judge in Abingdon, VA, has ruled that strip miners don't have to rebuild mountains after they remove coal from them.

In the early January ruling, Judge Glen Williams also declared unconstitutional portions of the U.S. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act that let the government halt mining and assess penalties without a hearing and that allowed anyone complaining the land was unsuitable for mining to stop the operation.

The Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association filed the suit in 1978, claiming the federal government had overstepped its bounds.

Executive Director of the Virginia association, B.V. Cooper, said the ruling overturned three important parts of the 1977 federal law. The major gripe of strip miners was the provision that strip-mined land had to be restored to original contours. In many cases, that meant rebuilding mountains, Cooper said.

The federal government—the suit was filed against the Secretary of the Interior—is expected to appeal.

quirements by achieving optimum tillage for weed control in crop production. This would amount to an annual savings of \$1.6 billion.

## PARKS

### Girl Scout cookie sales will build a forest

In the San Francisco Bay area, Girl Scouts are helping the park system when they sell cookies in the annual January-March sale this year.

The 1980 sale will fund a new forest of native California trees in the East Bay Regional Parks, the 40-parkland system stretching along the eastern side of San Francisco Bay.

The hope for this first year is for 150 new trees, each to be planted in the name of a Girl Scout who ranks among the top sellers, according to Linda L. Chew, director of development and public information for the East Bay Regional Park District.

The forestry project is being conducted in all five Bay counties — Alameda and Contra Costa, home of the Regional Parks, and across the Bay in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties.

## HORTICULTURE

### Research changes view on succulent growth

Cacti and other succulents grow better when watered and fertilized more frequently than generally done, say researchers at Cornell University.

Their findings run contrary to the popular belief that these plants do best in a desert-like environment. Good light is essential, but it does not have to be as intense as that found in the deserts, nor is it necessary to keep the temperature high at night. In fact, succulents do well at cool temperatures ranging from 50 to 60 degrees F. at night.

Since production may now be possible anywhere in the northern United States and in Canada, more exotic varieties of succulents may become available to consumers. Home gardeners can also benefit from the findings because they can grow them easily at home and can provide better care.

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