

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

tions coordinator for the Mailorder Association of Nurserymen.

Reilly is also executive secretary of the New York State Flower Industries, the New York State Turf Grass Association, the Long Island Flower Growers Association, and the Long Island Horticultural Society. She has authored several gardening books and has contributed numerous articles and photographs to many gardening and shelter magazines.

PESTICIDES

Dutch Elm control gets EPA approval

Elm owners who have injected their trees with Arbotect 20-S systemic fungicide to prevent Dutch Elm disease for the past two years can continue treatments this year.

Two years ago when Arbotect was first registered, the EPA placed a restriction on the label specifying that the fungicide should not be used for more than two consecutive years. The reason was to allow more time for research into the long-range effects of continuous annual treatments. Since subsequent testing has shown no significant problems, the restriction has been dropped.

Using a fungicide in this capacity is one of the four important steps in controlling the disease, says Dr. Ronald Landis, director of agricultural research and development for MSD AGVET, Div. of Merck & Co., Inc. Other steps include good sanitation, insect control, and elimination of root grafts.

EQUIPMENT

Program proposed for equipment anti-theft

The Construction Industry Manufacturers Association (CIMA) has been studying a special anti-theft training program for law enforcement, said Earl O. Christianson, director of security for J I Case.

Speaking to the Heavy Equipment Committee of the International Association of Automotive Theft Investigators (IAATI), Christianson said the proposed educational program is also studying resource materials to assist in identification and recovery of stolen equipment.

A Case study made of law enforcement agency response to the equip-

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Feds propose ban on equipment with PCB

Pesticide and fertilizer companies would be required to remove equipment containing liquid polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) or flush the PCB from the equipment under regulations proposed by the USDA, FDA, and EPA.

Producers and processors would also be required to remove any liquid PCB stored separately at their facilities under proposals by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services and the EPA.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman said the proposals represent a coordinated effort by the federal agencies to protect consumers from environmental contamination of the food supply and protect producers and processors from catastrophic losses which may result from such contamination.

Regs for wage and hour laws may change

Changes in regulations have been proposed to facilitate the hearing and appeal process for issues concerning the Davis-Bacon and related acts, the Service Contract Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

Under the Service Contract Act, the hearing and appeal process regarding enforcement, debarment, and wage determination matters would be revised. A Board of Service Contract Appeals would be created to hear appeals from decisions of administrative law judges.

The existing Wage Appeals Board would continue to hear appeals involving the Davis-Bacon and related acts. The proposal would also establish certain new procedures, such as formal hearings before administrative law judges concerning enforcement and debarment of contractors from federal contracts for violating the acts.

New procedures would be established for expediting cases involving the Contract Hours and Safety Standards Act.

National Arbor Day bill passes Senate

The bill to annually designate the last Friday in April as Arbor Day has passed the Senate but needs 218 members from the House to cosponsor it.

The House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service has a policy that this type of bill will neither be heard nor reported unless 218 members cosponsor it. Neither will the committee hold hearings on the Senate-passed bill. House Bill (HJR-159), introduced by Rep. Minish (D-NJ), has 22 cosponsors to date (May 31).

EPA bars six new plastic compounds

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first order of its kind to prohibit the manufacture of six new chemicals on grounds that they may pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

The chemicals, called "phthalate esters," are "plasticizers" used to give flexibility to polyvinyl chloride plastic products such as garden hoses, floor tiles, and refrigerator gaskets.

EPA imposed the manufacturing ban under the Toxic Substances Control Act because of evidence indicating that the new substances could pose a cancer risk to production workers and could kill and deform fish and other organisms.