

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

man for the American Society for Horticulture.

Fretz received his undergraduate degree in agriculture from the University of Maryland in 1964. He achieved his master's and doctorate at the University of Delaware.

### NEW GROUP

#### Wisconsin organizes turfgrass association

The Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, which held its organizational meeting last fall, has set its first aim at establishing a more comprehensive research turf program specifically for Wisconsin growing conditions and problems.

Plans are underway to work closely with the University of Wisconsin, School of Agriculture, to upgrade turfgrass research in the State of Wisconsin. Dr. Gayle Worf, University of Wisconsin extension plant pathologist, has agreed to organize the initial research efforts.

Initial members represent sod production, golf course maintenance, landscape contracting, lawn care, and other allied turf fields. Membership is open to any person or organization interested in improving Wisconsin's turfgrass program.

For information and applications, contact Tom Harrison, 1218 Winn Trail, Madison, WI 53704.

### NEW GROUP

#### Massachusetts forms forum for pesticides

A forum of people interested in a rational approach to pesticides has organized in the state of Massachusetts to disseminate accurate, unbiased information to the public.

Members of the group, Rational Approach to Pesticides, are involved in the everyday application or distribution of pesticides for protection against insects, rodents, diseases, weeds, and nematodes. Officers are planning to discuss their goals with the state's governor and other legislators.

The following state associations are members of R.A.P.: Associated Landscape Contractors, Golf Course Superintendents Association, Arborist Association, Association of Professional Foresters, Farm Bureau Federation,

*Continues on page 51*

#### Gorsuch Gets Nod for Top EPA Post

Despite early grumbling that Colorado lawyer Anne Gorsuch was not qualified or sensitive to the environmental cause, both Houses unanimously approved her nomination as well as the nomination of her deputy John Hernandez.

EPA insiders believe Gorsuch will direct a total reorganization of the agency and say she is greatly influenced by Secretary of the Interior James Watt, who has already established a record scorned by some environmentalists.

Responding to questions from the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Gorsuch said she was committed to regulatory reform, finding the least costly options, giving states more of the responsibility and more incentive, and changing the image that EPA employees are "mad environmentalists."

Hernandez, a former dean of the New Mexico State University College of Engineering, also stressed increased environmental enforcement by states. He pointed out that the agency has highly qualified people who have too often been rushed to make determinations on scientific matters, thus wasting the agency's money and making decisions without adequate consideration of their economic impact.

#### NAA, PLCAA to assist in EPA urban study

The Environmental Protection Agency has solicited the assistance of the National Arborist Association and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America in a survey of urban pesticide usage. The associations will help in development of the questionnaire for the survey and their members may then be asked to participate in the confidential survey.

According to NAA, the data from the survey will be used for risk/benefit analysis, environmental monitoring, and improved registration and enforcement procedures. NAA also sent out a special mailing to members stressing the seriousness of following label guidelines and taking needed precautions to guard contamination of water, bird feeders, dog dishes, children's toys, and adjacent property. NAA must be communicating the signals it is getting from EPA.

#### Year extension of FIFRA likely at \$62 million

Both the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation are expected to approve legislation extending the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to 1983 and extending the existence of the Scientific Advisory Panel to 1985.

Rep. Fithian (D-IN) voiced the need for additional funding to support states in applicator recertification and to maintain the current level of pesticide registration decisions. The one year program extension indicates a review of FIFRA implementation by EPA will take place before further funding is approved. The House bill has passed committee and the Senate bill will enter hearings this summer.

#### Elanco aquatic control has permit extended

An aquatic herbicide containing fluridone has received an extension for its experimental use permit from the Environmental Protection Agency according to Elanco. Tolerances for fluridone residue in fish have been established so fish from the test lakes can be consumed.

#### New fungicide enters registration process

Ciba Geigy Corp. has submitted an application to register TILT 3.6E, a member of the triazole family of fungicides, for rusts and powdery mildew in grasses grown for seed. This use is often a preliminary step to registration for turf uses. Ciba Geigy has been working on fungicides for extended control in turf. Bayleton by Mobay was recently labelled for 28-day control of diseases in turf.