

EPA Officials on the Hot Seat

On two successive days in October, the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee grilled the EPA administrator, Anne M. Gorsuch and her nominee for Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Dr. John A. Todhunter. Mrs. Gorsuch was questioned severely about her plans for the future of EPA because the onboard EPA bureaucracy estimates that by the end of fiscal year 1983, there will be less than half of the 1981 employment level (around 10,000). She was also grilled about the Administration's plan for rewriting the Clean Air Act, failure to do anything about Superfund, and the low morale in EPA.

On the next day at Dr. Todhunter's nomination hearings, the Committee, with help from environmental organizations, unloaded on him. They were critical of health risk decisions made during his consultant status with EPA since they differed widely from previous agency policy. Of note were the decisions on formaldehyde and the controversy within EPA on the human exposure levels due to the use of ethylene dibromide (EDB) for fumigation of food crops in the Medfly quarantine areas of California. His public disclosure earlier this year about the EPA suspension of the uses of 2,4,5-T and silvex on insufficient evidence also came under fire. However, he was easily approved by the Committee and the full Senate.

More Pesticides for the Nursery Industry

A concerted effort by the American Association of Nurserymen, the National Forest Products Association and the Society of American Florists has given the nursery industry quicker access to new and effective pesticides. The cost of acquiring registration data has been so great that a manufacturer often did not register low volume uses until years after a chemical was registered for a major agricultural crop.

The three organizations made their problem known at the 1981 Congressional Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) oversight hearings. They requested the insertion of a new definition in FIFRA that would make "applying a pesticide, registered for use on a food crop, to any non-food or non-feed nursery crop against any target pest specified on the labeling, unless such use is specifically prohibited on the labeling" not inconsistent with its labeling. In subsequent meetings with the House Agricultural Committee staff and EPA, a method was found to resolve the nurserymen's problem without making a change in the Act. Under existing statutory authorities, EPA proposed that the following uses are not inconsistent with labeling: (1) a pesticide registered for use on a specific ornamental plant can be used on all ornamental plants; (2) a pesticide registered for use in greenhouses can be used on all non-food plants grown in greenhouses; and (3) general or unclassified use pesticides registered for use on food crops may be used on non-food or non-feed nursery sites. In all three all label directions, precautions, and restrictions must be followed.

This new policy would make about 85% of the registered pesticides available to the nurserymen.

New Soil and Water Conservation Ethic

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is ready to embark on a new soil and water conservation program. The programs that evolved during the last 45 years assumed that farmers, ranchers and other resource users were motivated to practice sound conservation methods for financial reasons. Today, other factors in agriculture play a significant part and the USDA has decided to shift away from random 'first-come, first served' style of practice selection to one of priority designations worked out with state and county organizations. In order, these priorities are: (1) reduce soil erosion, (2) reduce flood damage in small, upstream waterways, (3) conserve water and enhance water quality, (4) improve fish and wildlife habitat and (5) increase the use of organic waste.

GOLF

Musser tournament raises over \$2000

Over \$2000 was raised for turf research through the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation at the Eighth Annual Oregon Musser Tournament.

Winner of the 18 hole tournament was a Salem team of Ray Anderson, Bob Renaud, Bill Burgher and Ed Radigan who won tickets for a free flight over Mt. St. Helens. Tualatin Country Club donated free green fees and the Tee-2-Green Corp. sponsored the evening banquet.

With 64 players entered this year, two women joined the fray for the first time.

Prusa takes on GCSAA training job

The new education director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America represents both the old and the new for superintendents.

Having grown up on Aquamarine Golf Club in Avon Lake, OH, where his father is superintendent, he was exposed to the methods of the 50's and 60's. Unlike others growing up in this rather rebellious time, he was captivated by his father's occupation.

After a tour in the Navy, he pursued a horticulture degree from Orange Coast Community College in Costa Mesa, CA., and California State Polytechnic Institute in Pomona. GCSAA recognized Prusa as a student at Cal Poly with a scholarship. He was Kent Kurtz's technician for turf research. He graduated with honors in 1975 with a degree in turf management and ornamental horticulture.

After serving as superintendent at China Lake Golf Course in California, he moved to Pasatiempo, a course designed in 1927 by Allistair MacKenzie, often called the father of golf course architecture. MacKenzie also designed Cypress Point Golf Course in Monterey, CA, and Augusta National in Atlanta, GA, with Bobby Jones. Prusa took the job as superintendent at the beginning of the severe drought. He had to justify skyrocketing irrigation water bills and at the same time help the members adjust to course changes caused by water reduction. His dilemma was reported at the GCSAA Convention in St. Louis in 1979.

Prusa has always expressed an interest in the club management aspects of golf and now holds the title of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and acting General Manager of Pasa-

Continues on page 16