

Drift irks Long Island neighbor

The following article is reprinted with a different headline from Pest Control Progress, the newsletter of the International Pesticide Applicators Association. The first half is a letter to a newspaper in Long Island regarding tree spraying. It is followed by comments by Dennis Ryan, president of the New York Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and Director of Forestry and Horticulture for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation.

Recently, my neighbors had their trees sprayed against gypsy moths. Luckily, I was home at the time. I noticed quite a bit of spray was landing on my five-year-old son's toys and bikes.

When I went to the front of my house to close the windows, I was horrified to see insecticide cascading down on my car, baby carriage and stroller. Everything, including baby blankets, teething, pacifiers and baby toys was drenched with spray. Only ten minutes before, my four-month-old baby had been asleep in the carriage. I was very upset. What if I hadn't been home or hadn't noticed the spraying and everything went unwashed?

The houses in my neighborhood are relatively close together and many trees are on property lines. Consequently, quite a few people are having parts of their property sprayed whether they want it or not.

Commercial sprayers should be required to inform all adjacent property owners of spraying before it is begun. They should also be required to contain the spray, as much as possible, to the property for which it is intended. I realize that it is impossible to contain the spray completely, but the spraying techniques I have seen can and should be improved.

The above letter was published in Newsday, a newspaper with circulation of more than 500,000 on Long Island. This letter and the feelings it conveys is not an isolated case.

Obviously, it becomes very difficult to defend the tree care industry against restrictive pesticide regulations when, seemingly, we are responsible, through our own negligence, for the fate which could befall us.

Can you answer yes to any of the following questions?:

- Do you send out crews that are inexperienced and lacking in proper pesticide application training?
- Do you allow your crews to continue spraying when the wind is blowing in order to get the job done?
- Have you sold a pesticide application when it was unnecessary?
- Do you have equipment on the road that is leaking or unclean?
- Are you still doing "broadcast" spraying and not target applications?

If we do not voluntarily clean up our act, some legislator will certainly try to do it for us. Don't wait until it's too late. As professionals we are responsible for our actions. It's up to each of you. Do your part!

which has also given him a van to use for research activities.

During the past four years the association has also contributed \$20,000 toward turfgrass disease research programs at Cornell University in New York.

EQUIPMENT

Wheel Horse sold to investor group

A group of investors led by the management of Wheel Horse Products, Inc., put together \$13 million to buy the company from American Motors Corp. in late August. Wheel Horse's



Munn and Hawkins (l. to r.)

sales have been estimated at \$50 million.

The City of South Bend, IN, helped finance the takeover to keep the company there, where it started in the late 40's. The company employs nearly 400.

John Munn will remain the president of Wheel Horse and Robert Hawkins will be vice chairman.

SEED

Robinson opens own research company

Mike Robinson, former vice-president of Pickseed West Inc., has opened his own Seed Research Inc. office to handle testing, development, production and marketing of turf and forage seeds. Regional seed companies will distribute the new firm's products. Robinson's ten years in the seed business includes trading, multiplication, production, varietal development and marketing. He is the current vice president of the Oregon Seed Trade Association.

The new offices are located at 29730 Harvest Drive, Albany OR 97321.