

UPDATE

EPA, White House mix Superfund with politics

The resignation of Ann Gorsuch Burford and the installation of William Ruckelshaus as EPA Administrator overshadowed discoveries by a Congressional Subcommittee of political cooperation between Rita Lavelle, fired head of the hazardous waste program, and White House staff.

Lavelle's office was secured when she left and documents were found that indicated Lavelle met with White House aide James Medas in July 1982 to discuss how Superfund spending could be manipulated to help out candidates in close races for reelection. One example is the funding provided to Massachusetts months before the election to help former Governor Edward King.

Lavelle and Burford both face contempt charges. The subcommittee hopes to call Medas to testify to explain the notes found in Lavelle's office.

Label disposal guidelines expanded

New pesticide storage and disposal requirements for labels of pesticides have been expanded to include a mandatory disposal warning and directions for storage and disposal. Storage directions will cover temperature, humidity and handling. Disposal directions will be based upon container type, such as aerosol or plastic containers, and type of chemical.

Change in EPA leaders may delay FIFRA changes

A temporary hold on amendments to FIFRA until new EPA leadership has had time to make their own suggestions is being discussed by members of the House Agriculture Committee. A subcommittee to the committee has received numerous amendments to FIFRA and held hearings. A two-year extension for FIFRA is being considered giving the new administrator time to study the issues and changes required in FIFRA.

Caribbean Initiative reintroduced

The Senate Finance Committee has been holding hearings on Senate Bill 544, known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative. The bill passed the House prior to adjournment but was not considered by the Senate. The bill seeks to exempt nursery products from a duty-free status allowed to Caribbean growers. Leather and sugar have already been exempted from the duty-free status. The Interior Plantscape Association and the American Association of Nurserymen are supporting the bill.

saved that carries the variety name or seed mixture of a Turf-Seed, Inc. proprietary. Different seed kinds carry different point values. Varieties and mixes participating in the Blue Tag promotion and the corresponding point values are:

CBS, 1; Citation, 1; Omega, 1; Birdie, 1; Oregreen, 1; Birdie II, 1; Manhattan II, 1; Columbia, 2; Shasta, 2, Midnight, 2; N-535, 2; Fortress, 2; Shadow, 2; Waldina, 4; Aurora, 4; and Olympic, 1.

Each participant who accumulates any combination of tags valued at 2,000 points wins the fishing trip; 100 points wins a ham and 25 points earns a Gift Pack. Qualifying turf associations may redeem blue tags for cash at the rate of \$.50 per point. This program will have an initial run of three years. Tags can be saved from year to year.

TURF

Bidwell joins Tee-2-Green Corp.

The Tee-2-Green Corporation is sponsoring former golf course superintendent Warren Bidwell as speaker for local GCSAA chapter meetings and state agricultural schools offering a turf seminar program to discuss the merits of Penneagle and Pencross Bentgrass. Bidwell has over 52 years experience in turfgrass. His career has been varied, including major construction and landscaping. He was sent abroad by Tee-2-Green in 1974, '76, '80 and '81 to acquaint fellow turf growers with the merits of Penncross and later, Penneagle. On two occasions, he was guest lecturer at the South African Greenkeepers and Club Managers Associations, the 4th and 6th Australian Turf Conferences and the New Zealand Turf Seminar at Palmerston North, and later at the Kansai Turf Station in Japan.

Stauffer promotes Wissmiller in sales

Stauffer Chemical Company has named James E. Wissmiller national sales manager for the company's Agricultural Chemical Division.

For the past four years, Wissmiller has served as director of marketing for Stauffer Produtos Quimicos Ltda., Sao Paulo, Brazil, a wholly-owned Stauffer subsidiary. Since joining Stauffer in 1970, Wissmiller has also held positions in agricultural chemical sales and sales management. In his new position, Wissmiller will be located at the company's Westport, CT headquarters.