

## UPDATE

### 2,4-D May Be Bargaining Point in Pesticide Battle

The workhorse of selective weed control for years, 2,4-D, appears to be a bargaining point in the battle to defend pesticide use in urban areas.

Jerry Faulring, president of Hydro-Lawn in Gaithersburg, MD, and former president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), recently predicted 2,4-D could be outlawed at certain levels of government before the end of this year. Faulring based his opinion on a flurry of pesticide legislation at the state and local level during the past 18 months.

The PLCAA, the National Arborist Association, and the 2,4-D Coalition have formed a pro-pesticide coalition called the National Environmental Law Foundation. The group will counter moves by environmental organizations seeking new legislation to ban important chemical tools and require impractical prenotification of owners of property adjacent to sprayed areas. Faulring is on the board of the new coalition.

Faulring suggested in a recent article in *Lawn Care Industry* magazine 2,4-D use be eliminated if possible since further defense of the pesticide would be difficult considering current local legislation developing against the product. "We could probably muddle through this year and next without 2,4-D by passing the buck for less weed control onto the government, as we did when chlordane was suspended for turfgrass use," Faulring said. "If we find the solution first (to 2,4-D), we could use our self regulatory advantage as a promotional advantage."

Another possible sign 2,4-D's position has changed is the recent sale of many of Dow Chemical's 2,4-D trademarks to Vertac, a privately held, Memphis-based chemical manufacturer. *Chemical Week*, a McGraw-Hill publication, speculated the sale of the trademarks was a move by Dow toward products with patent protection. Monsanto and Du Pont have stopped producing 2,4-D leaving SDS Biotech, Vertac and Dow as the only manufacturers in the U.S.

Dow Chemical's business manager for domestic agricultural herbicides, A. Charles Fischer, said the company will not reduce its capacity to produce 2,4-D, but will not take the product all the way to distributors. Velsicol and other chemical companies have chosen to sell some technical herbicides to reformulators rather than market to distributors. Therefore, Dow's move could be simply part of a trend of marketing to reformulators rather than to the distributor.

The point is 2,4-D is being used by environmentalists against urban pesticide applicators and Faulring believes the industry can relieve this political pressure by developing an alternative to 2,4-D before legislation requires it.

Some progress has been made in finding an alternative to 2,4-D in agriculture but that has not been true so far in the turf industry. Faulring stresses that 2,4-D is a vital component of turf herbicides and is not an evil toxin as the public has been led to believe. Yet, as agriculture has done, it is wise for the turf industry to also seek substitutes for 2,4-D in case politics win over the facts.

said Mike Schiller of STMA. For more information, contact Executive Secretary Erik Madisen, Jr. at (414) 733-2301.

## EQUIPMENT

### New Toro brands on National Tour

Toro's "Greatest Show on Turf" tour will visit 40 cities this fall to showcase the Minnesota manufacturer's new products, including the Hydraulic 5-unit Reelmaster 350-D, 5- and 7-blade Reelmaster Gang Mowers and the 36- and 52-inch Walk Behind Mowers.

"The Road Show allows us to show



customers our products in action, but more importantly it gives our customers a chance to meet with their peers and and us to discuss their turf care needs," said Dennis Brown, marketing programs manager. The tour, which began in August, is expected to end in December.

## LANDSCAPE

### Ohio Short Courses begin in December

The 1983-84 series of the Landscape Design Short Courses for Residential Properties, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of the Ohio State University, will begin Dec. 12. The series of five, three-day programs will continue until Aug. 1, 1984.

Course offerings are as follows: Course I - Landscape Design, Dec. 12-14; Course II - Advanced Landscape Design, Jan. 11-13; Course III - Design Detailing. Prerequisite is Course II; Course IV - Landscape Drawing Rendering, March 21-23; Course V - Planting Design, Prerequisite is Course II, Aug 1-3.

All courses are \$95. For registration information, contact Fred K. Buscher, Area Extension Center, OARDC, Wooster, OH 44691, (216) 263-3831.