

UPDATE

100 organizations form toxic hazard coalition

Environmental groups, labor unions, and even senior citizen organizations have joined together for a major door-to-door campaign starting this spring to increase the average citizen's "knowledge" about toxic chemicals.

David Dietz, director of the Pesticide Public Policy Forum (3PF) told *Weeds Trees & Turf* more than 13 unions and 55 environmental organizations will participate in the national campaign. Beside knocking on doors across the country, the group is expected to ask for signatures for a petition for tougher chemical laws.

A report on this organization and recent legislation in various states will appear in the May issue.

Ruckelshaus sees little chance for 84 FIFRA without compromise

EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus has admitted there is little hope for a new set of amendments to the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act in 1984, unless both sides work out compromises on their own.

The Harper's Ferry Bill, labelled an environmentalist's want list, was introduced last summer by Representative Harkin of California. The amendments caused the differences between environmentalists and the pesticide industry to grow larger. It is therefore unlikely the two sides will reach any type of compromise this year.

According to an American Association of Nurserymen backgrounder, the Harper's Ferry Bill would require all applicators be certified (not just supervisors), that applicators maintain records of each job, and reduces the use of special local needs registrations. It would also require prenotification, buffer zones, and posting.

Minnesota prenotification bill could crimp pesticide applicators

The Minnesota legislature will be considering a Community Right to Know bill this session which places considerable requirements on all applicators of pesticides. Industry representatives fear the bill, if passed, may be used by other states for similar legislation.

The amendments would require posting 8 1/2 x 11-inch signs five days prior to application stating the pesticide(s) to be used, method of application, date and time of intended applications, known symptoms of the chemicals, name and address of two persons responsible for the application, the address of the Minnesota State Health Department, and the word toxic in two-inch-high letters.

Before making applications copies of pesticide labels are to be provided to the property owner and tenants. Applicators are to send copies of the required materials to the State Department of Health and the State Department of Agriculture.

NPIRS from page 12

Jim White, the system's user service manager at Purdue, said the system "fills a long-recognized need. In the past, by the time a compendium of pesticide changes was compiled and issued, it was already out-of-date. Now, NPIRS members can rapidly acquire timely pesticide information."

SOD

Minnesota predicts sod shortage

The Minnesota Turf Association has predicted a severe shortage of cultured sod for the 1984 construction season.

Agronomist Curt Klint, executive director of the Association, said, "Contractors, home builders and other consumers statewide should anticipate their needs early and contact their suppliers to check on availability and prices."

Klint attributed the anticipated shortage as an effect of the construction industry slowdown of the last three years, which reduced the demand for sod. Local turf growers responded to the reduced demand by converting their fields to other crops which allow for harvest every season, instead of the 12 to 18 months needed to produce sod.

Last fall's demand for sod was larger than expected, however, so reserves that would have been available this spring are already depleted, according to Klint.

Sod planted this spring will not be available until mid-1985.

Twin Cities area turf growers supply sod throughout Minnesota, as well as to North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and part of Iowa.

CHEMICALS

Burke elected VP at Stauffer Chemicals

John J. Burke, general manager of Stauffer Chemical Co.'s Agricultural Chemical Division, has been elected a vice president of the corporation.

Burke joined Stauffer in 1966 as an analytical chemist, and he also held several positions with SWS Silicones Corp., a subsidiary of Stauffer. A native of Carbondale, PA, Burke received both his bachelor's degree and doctorate in chemistry from the University of Pittsburg.