

## UPDATE

### USDA changes lawn seed regs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has amended the Federal Seed Act to give turf seed growers ten additional months between germination testing and shipment.

Before the change, which took effect in February, seed companies had to ship seed within five months of germination tests. Since the growers convinced USDA certain grasses maintain germination qualities longer than previously thought, they now have 15 months after doing tests before they have to ship.

The change applies to bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, chewing fescue, hard fescue, red fescue, tall fescue, annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass.

The Federal Seed Act is a truth in labeling law. It requires seed growers to provide information on the components and germination rates of the seed on the label. Each component of the seed mix must be listed in order of predominance and the oldest germination test must not be older than 15 months.

### Briefs pour in for Monsanto case

The Who's Who of the chemical industry have lined up behind Monsanto in its Supreme Court case against EPA and Stauffer Chemical Co. by submitting amici curiae briefs to the Court in late January. Monsanto is suing EPA for allowing Stauffer to use safety data to support registration of a product similar to Roundup.

American Cyanamid, American Hoechst, BASF Wyandotte, Chevron, Ciba-Geigy, Dow, duPont, Elanco, ICI Americas, MoBay, PBI Gordon, Rhone Poulenc, Rohm & Haas, SDS Biotech, Union Carbide, Uniroyal and Zoecon have all told the Court that they side with Monsanto. Stauffer filed its own brief telling the Court that FIFRA never adequately provided just compensation for data developers and that registrations acquired under the existing law should not be retroactively nullified.

Monsanto and the other chemical companies contend data required for registration are "trade secrets" and not the property of EPA once submitted.

Meanwhile, SDS Biotech has asked EPA to cancel a registration for chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787) by Griffin Corporation saying it never gave and never will give Griffin permission to use SDS Biotech data. EPA intends to hold cancellation hearings on the Griffin technical chlorothalonil registration.

### Child-proof exemption proposed

EPA has proposed exempting from child-proofing laws insecticide containers greater than one gallon or 40 pounds and herbicide and fungicide containers larger than five gallons or 75 pounds. EPA said containers in these sizes are used by commercial users and are not stored around children. A final ruling is due this month.

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and courses. And don't neglect your own continuing education.

■ Set up a viable purchasing system and inventory control. Send out bid lists to track down the best deal on all supplies.

■ Keep course equipment in good working order and have an equipment inventory.

■ When you have a problem or need advice, ask for it. A true pro will never hesitate to ask for help. When someone comes to you for help, give it freely and willingly. Get to know your county extension agent. They can become valuable friends.

### PEST CONTROL

#### Ecogen is new bio pesticide company

A new company has sprouted in the field of biological pest controls.

Ecogen Inc. is focusing on microbial and viral pesticide products derived from the latest advances in biotechnology. The company will also be involved in the development of specialty pest control products with applications in agriculture, forestry and households.

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John E. Davies is president and chief executive officer, formerly senior vice president and general manager of the Agrochemical Division of Rhone-Poulenc, Inc.

Bruce C. Carlton, Ph.D is vice president of research and development. He is a professor of molecular and population genetics at the University of Georgia, Athens. Harold V. Smith is Chairman of the Board.

Ecogen Inc. was founded by Johnston Associates, Inc., Princeton, NJ.

### GOLF

#### PGA Tour OKs mobile golf workshop

The PGA Tour will have a mobile golf workshop that will travel with it the entire season, logging about 100,000 miles.

The mobile unit is the brainchild of Mizuno Golf Company USA, the American marketing arm of Mizuno Corporation, headquartered in Osaka, Japan.