

UPDATE

Supreme Court asked to hear Bureau of Land Management ban

As reported in the August issue, the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (3PF) has pinpointed a spraying ban on land in Oregon and Washington managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as "the most significant pesticide issue confronting the Green Industry". This dispute over "worst case" analysis prior to spraying, has stopped all contract spraying in these areas and threatens to stop spraying in other BLM areas.

The Department of Justice has asked the Supreme Court to review a Circuit Appeals Court ruling supporting the worst case procedure, since it is a matter of conflicting pesticide regulations.

The original ban was achieved in a suit by the Southern Oregon Citizens Against Toxic Sprays, Inc. They won the case through the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Court ruling in favor of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) over FIFRA. NEPA uses worst case analysis while FIFRA uses risk versus benefit analysis for approving pesticide use.

EPA to tighten label regulations on bird killing granulars, advertising

Wildlife consumption of granular pesticides and advertising claims will face greater regulation under new amendments to FIFRA proposed by EPA.

Certain granular pesticides have allegedly been toxic to feeding birds and other wildlife. These products would carry a restricted use classification.

EPA also wants to police advertising of restricted use pesticides. The proposal would probably be similar to Food and Drug Administration regulations focusing on claims of use, efficacy, and safety.

More restricted use training likely

EPA's Administrator's Pesticide Advisory Committee is hitting the question of direct supervision of restricted use pesticide applicators hard. Members of the Committee range in opinion from "on site" supervision to extra training, but not necessarily certification.

One member called direct supervision "impractical", recommending varying levels of training for different pesticide classifications instead. The representative from the National Campaign Against Misuse of Pesticides claimed certification was no more difficult than taking a driver's licence examination.

DISTRIBUTORS

Lesco goes public, plans open house

More than 600,000 shares of Lesco, Inc. (formerly Lakeshore Equipment and Supply Company) stock became available for purchase August 29, at an initial price of \$11 per share.

The public offering has been expected since last fall when the national distributor of landscape and golf course supplies occupied new headquarters in Rocky River, OH.

Persons desiring a prospectus for the common shares of Lesco Inc. should contact MacDonald & Company Securities, 2100 Central National Bank, Cleveland, OH 44114.

The colonial-style headquarters building has been completely renovated and an open house has been scheduled for November 29, 1984.

Those interested in attending the open house, which is open to everyone working in the Green Industry, should contact Barbara Betz, Lesco, Inc., 20005 Lake Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116. (216) 333-9250.

TREES

Shigo warns effects of improper pruning

Poor pruning is one of the number one culprits of injury to trees, according to Dr. Alex Shigo of the USDA Forest Service, Durham, New Hampshire.

Shigo, one of the key speakers at this year's Professional Grounds Management Society annual conference in Worcester, MA, in October, told a packed room of professional grounds managers that neglect, poor care, and poor pruning are a tree's worst enemies.

"Nature does everything short of putting blinking lights on how a tree should be pruned," he said. "Nature comes with a set of instructions that are seldom heeded."

Shigo, one of the foremost plant pathologists in the country and a frequent international tree consultant, drove home the idea that a tree is a "compartmentalized" organism with many "boundaries."

"There is absolutely no way a tree can heal a wound," explained Shigo. "They set boundaries around the infected tissue that compartmentalizes it, but doesn't heal it."

Shigo passed out brochures on proper tree pruning at the conference. Additional copies can be secured by writing the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, 370 Reed Road, Broomall, PA 19008.