

## UPDATE

### Applicator in '86 may have to wear both gloves and respirator

EPA will release this spring proposed Worker Protection Standards for pesticide applicators which include gloves and respirators as required protective clothing. The proposals will face hearings before they are enacted sometime in 1986.

The scope of pesticide applicators has been broadened to include greenhouse, golf course, and other non-agricultural areas, as well as those who mix, load, apply or handle pesticides. The proposals stress the need for protection upon reentry of a treated area and include provisions on posting and other warnings.

### Panel zeroes in on 'inadequacies' of pesticide applicator supervision

An EPA Administrator's Pesticide Advisory Committee discussed last month the lack of adequate supervision of uncertified applicators of restricted-use pesticides. The committee, discussing possible amendments to FIFRA, implied changes to the meaning of direct supervision and improvement of applicator training were possible in future regulations.

An early victory of commercial and agricultural applicators was the acceptance by EPA of direct supervision by telephone. In this way, an uncertified applicator has been able to apply restricted-use pesticides as long as he can reach a certified applicator by phone. The panel seems to be leaning toward either requiring all applicators of restricted-use pesticides be certified or narrowing the meaning of direct supervision.

Pesticide applicator training is also being studied by the panel for changes. A training requirement for uncertified applicators may provide room for compromise with the all certified applicator proposal.

### EPA explores risk fees to pay for 'safer substitutes'

A 'per-pound fee' is being considered by an EPA advisory panel to pay for development of 'safer substitutes'. High-risk products or those with missing safety data would be charged a higher rate than less risky products or those with complete safety data on file with EPA.

The idea is already termed "dramatic" by panel members and others and is bound to face extreme counter-pressure by chemical companies. EPA is trying to make it financially unfavorable to either produce higher risk products or delay submitting safety data.

The Office of Pesticide Programs has set 1985 as a goal for gathering all missing data. Implementation of such a proposal would not take effect until 1986 at the soonest.

## INDUSTRY

### Amfac sells units to Tri-West Inc.

An employee group headed by John F. Mendez, former executive vice president at Amfac, purchased all the assets of Amfac's three horticulture units this summer. The new company, known as Tri-West Inc., is based in San Mateo, CA. Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Involved in the sale were Amfac Garden Perry's, a ground cover and bedding producer, Amfac Garden Cal-Turf, and Jenco Nurseries, a horticulture wholesaler in the Southwest. Combined revenues for the units in 1983 were \$25 million.

Amfac will use the proceeds from the sale, which were substantially in cash, to reduce its short-term borrowings.

Amfac spokesperson Gwenly Carrel said the decision to sell the horticulture units was made in January after an exhaustive reevaluation of the entire company. She said it was Amfac's goal to divest itself of businesses "that have shown losses or low returns in recent years. Horticulture was one of the areas we identified as not meeting our goals."

Depressed housing starts during 1981 and 1982, resulting in poorer performances than anticipated in the nursery business, figured into the decision to sell, she told WEEDS TREES & TURF, along with the belief that some of Amfac's smaller businesses were not "conducive to effective corporate management."

## PEOPLE

### Names in the news

A new group of leaders head the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) following that organization's recent convention in San Antonio, TX. **Lawrence W. Bachman**, takes over as president of the AAN. He goes back a long way in the Green Industry. In 1938 he began the landscaping and garden store divisions of Bachman's, a Minneapolis firm which now has five garden centers and two nursery/landscape outlets. Bachman's celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1985.

The new AAN president is the former director of AAN's Region IV and was elected to the AAN board of directors in 1979 (serving as vice president in 1983). Replacing Bachman as director of Region IV is **Steve Driftmeier**, president of Wilmore Nurseries, Inc., Wheat Ridge, CO, and Little Valley Wholesale Nursery, Brighton, CO.