

## UPDATE

### States crack down on certification

Say goodbye to the written test exemptions for private applicators, open book tests, and high pass rates on certification exams, warned state pesticide officials in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, during the recent Interstate Ornamental Plant Management Conference held at the University of Maryland.

These states have also recently passed laws allowing fines to be levied against pesticide law violators in compliance meetings, instead of drawn-out court actions. The punishment now closely follows the crime.

Mark Greenleaf, head of the pesticide branch of the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, told the audience the certification examination is being expanded from 32 questions to 50, no books will be allowed in the test room, and failure rates have risen from seven percent to more than 30 percent. Furthermore, pending legislation could require private applicators to take the written examination like everyone else.

Greenleaf also said his department now conducts unannounced inspections of jobs. Although the District of Columbia recognizes certification from Virginia and Maryland, it requires licensing in the District before work can proceed.

An exemption from licensing for corporate pesticide applicators may also be changed. This could force private golf course superintendents and nursery owners to either get licensed or hire outside contractors to apply pesticides, said Greenleaf.

### Options for waste disposal

Changes made last November in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) could have a large impact on the Green Industry concerning pesticide wastes disposal.

The National Workshop on Pesticide Wastes Disposal in January in Denver emphasized various disposal options including physical, biological, chemical, land application and incineration treatment of wastes under RCRA and FIFRA laws.

The EPA estimated there were 55,000 "hazardous waste generators" in 1984, but estimates that number will climb to 175,000 in 1985.

The RCRA amendments have been called the "most significant rewrite of any environmental statute." The new authority and directives in the amendments impose significant restrictions and prohibitions on future land disposal of hazardous wastes, close many regulatory loopholes and subject a broad range of wastes and waste generators to regulation for the first time. Any organization that produces 100 kg (220 pounds) of listed waste material per month is covered by the new law.

Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI), the chief Senate architect for the major RCRA changes will be the featured speaker at a luncheon April 18th in Washington D.C.

## UNIONS *from page 12*

"You need to know the contract inside and out," Myers reports. "If I know the rules better than the employees, that gives me the edge." Myers also recommended keeping a close working relationship with the shop steward, eliminating the need to deal with a business agent.

Myers claims the two-week strike at his unionized Desert Inn course two years ago "was the worst two weeks of my life," and he advises superintendents to "be prepared for the worst" when negotiations begin.

"Unions are not the best thing that you can have happen to your golf course, but in some situations they're not that bad."

Says Meyers, "If your club can give your employees good salaries and good benefits, then you're better off without a union."

## INDUSTRY

### Lesco trucks on call coast to coast

For the first time, turf managers on the West Coast will be getting visits from the white and green Lesco trucks.

The Rocky River, OH, based company is establishing five new "warehouse on wheels" territories, including routes in Palm Springs and San Diego, CA. Lesco, which began serving turf managers by truck in Florida in 1976, should have a total of 32 trucks on the road by midyear. Other new routes include Hartford, CT, the Florida panhandle, and New Orleans.

Says Lesco Vice President Herb Cole, "All those (golf) courses in the new areas we have been serving on a mail-order basis will now have the convenience and the service of buying material directly off the truck



from a salesman trained to make recommendations for a particular area."

Lesco, Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of turfgrass and horticulture equipment and supplies, had truck routes in 15 states prior to this latest expansion.