

## UPDATE

### Groundwater scare spreads

Concern over contamination of groundwater in New York, Florida and New Jersey is spreading to other states, the most recent being Connecticut. The Connecticut Tree Protective Association sent a legislative alert out to arborists and landscapers in late February to help counteract overzealous state lawmakers excited by recent groundwater contamination stories.

Industry members get concerned when state laws venture too far from national ones. In this case, two bills are in question. One requires monthly reports to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and posting of job sites. Another would allow the state to change the classification of a pesticide regardless of Federal action.

### Seed label laws come to terms

'Noxious' or 'undesirable' makes a big difference to seed companies in Pennsylvania and other Atlantic states.

Afraid of different labelling requirements for each state, people like Adikes' Bob Russell are opposed to new state seed label laws. Others, like Penn State University's Dr. Joe Duich, feel stronger laws will improve the overall image of seed from reputable companies.

The biggest problem may be the states don't talk to each other when formulating their regulations, or do they? Progress has been made through regional regulatory officials, helping change the terminology of 'noxious', required by state laws on seed labels, to 'undesirable'. But the battle is not over, even with the change in terminology. It should be a hot topic at the American Seed Trade Association meeting this summer.

### Reclamation laws may fall short

When abandoned mine reclamation funds expire in 1992, thousands of acres of scarred lands will remain, according to a recent report by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Not only are the lands scarred, but they pour nearly 2,400 tons of sediment per square mile per year into Tennessee Valley waterways alone. The TVA report states, "The abandoned mine problem will not go away; rather it will, in many cases, become more critical and costly to solve."

The Federal Reclamation laws were first implemented in 1977. They represented a great opportunity for landscape contractors, but much of this potential was lost as mining companies battled the laws in court.

TVA has developed a report, Orphans of the Valley, to describe the seriousness of reclamation laws falling short.

## ASSOCIATION

### Florida nurserymen seek bad check law

The Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association is pressing the state legislature there to stiffen bad check laws. If successful, the familiar refrain "the check is in the mail"—particularly if it's a bad check—might not be so common.

"From a commercial standpoint, this issue of bad checks is a big problem," Allen Bernard, executive vice president of the FNGA, tells Weeds Trees & Turf. "Our effort is a move to put some teeth into the law."

Current Florida law almost requires a check to be signed in front of a merchant before the drawer can be prosecuted for writing a bad check. Therefore prosecution arising from checks delivered by deliverymen or through the mail is rare. The problem of postdated checks has also caused dissatisfaction with present laws.

The FNGA is asking the legislature to rewrite the statute to allow businesses to create a check cashing card file for each customer which would include name, address, telephone number and signature of that customer. The card could be used as a basis of identification for the check writer—the main stumbling block to prosecution in the present law. Postdated checks would be eliminated as well.

"Even with these changes very few would ever be prosecuted," Bernard adds. "But the threat of prosecution might get them to pay, and that's really the intent of it all."

A draft of the FNGA proposal, which is gaining support from other non-related industries, is in legislative committee.

## ATHLETIC FIELDS

### Toma speaks, crowd big at Sports Institute

The Sports Turf Institute, held in March at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, doubled in size from its inaugural meeting last year.

Show organizer Professor Kent Kurtz started with the conference last year based on requests received by the University for assistance with both professional and school fields. The first show last May attracted more than 250 field managers and 8 exhibitors. This year's show drew more than 550 field managers and 30 exhibitors. It also attracted stadium management from the Rose Bowl, San Diego Stadium, Anaheim Stadium and the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Well-known sports field expert  
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