

PGR market belies product name

■ Growth in the Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) market recently has been anything but regulated, or slow.

PGRs work by inhibiting seed head development on plants while still encouraging leaf development and growth, a scenario that often keeps turf green well into the hot summer months.

Products such as PBI/Gordon's Embark and Monsanto's Limit have been helping to reduce mowing frequency and cost in many areas of the green industry, especially rights-of-way. "Application of Embark," says PBI/Gordon product manager Earl Tracy, "prevents the need to mow for six to eight weeks."

And with costs in every area of turf care continuing to rise, a money saver is almost certain to become popular.

Survey says landscaping growth will continue

■ The 12th annual economic survey by the National Landscaping Association indicates that a majority of respondents believe the landscaping industry will continue to grow, most notably in residential landscaping.

For 1986, 70 percent of respondents reported increased sales in residential landscaping; residential renovation was up 61 percent; 65 percent reported increases in new commercial landscaping; just 33 percent reported increases in commercial renovation (53 percent showed no change).

When asked to forecast for 1987, 60 percent anticipated increases in new residential, 45 percent in new commercial.

On the whole, respondents' business increased an average of 21.7 percent from 1985 to 1986, well above the 16.8 percent forecasted at the beginning of 1986. Respondents are predicting an increase of 16.5 percent from 1986 to 1987.

California a model for other state regulators?

■ It seems that California's enactment of Proposition 65 "toxics initiative" is setting off a string of potential regulations in at least 15 other states nationwide.

Carl Pope, co-author of the proposition and a Sierra Club member, says that he and Environmental Defense Fund leader David Roe are penning a "generic" model of Prop. 65 for use by other states.

"This is not something that is being pushed out of California," Pope notes. "We are getting questions from everywhere." Pope claims he has received inquiries from a number of states concerning pesticide regulation. Washington, D.C. based National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards is working to set up legislation campaigns in 15 states.

Prop. 65 and proposed legislation in other states are similar. But "these new ones will go further," says Toxic Hazards' John O'Conner.

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OFFICES

ATLANTA
455 East Paces
Ferry Road Suite 324
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817

CLEVELAND
7500 Old Oak Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44130
Editorial: (216) 243-8100

CHICAGO
111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 938-2344

SEATTLE
1333 N.W. Norcross
Seattle, WA 98177
(206) 363-2864

DULUTH
120 West Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-9200

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore
Atlanta (404) 233-1817
Ron Kempner
Atlanta (404) 233-1817
Jon Miducki
Cleveland (216) 243-8100
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Seattle (206) 363-2864

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