

LEGISLATION

N.Y. groups unite against legislation

Commercial pesticide users in New York have banded together, attempting to overturn the strictest proposed pesticide regulations ever written by a state agency.

If the regulations go into effect as written, everyone who applies a pesticide will have to post warning signs—everyone except homeowners.

Affected industries have spent the last six months objecting to the regulations and urging customers to write their elected officials. But the objections have not deterred the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Last spring, assorted landscape managers and nurserymen formed the New York State Green Council. This past fall, the council hired a lobbyist.

"We've been very segmented up until the last six months," notes Bill Stark, vice president of the New York State Turfgrass Association. Stark is both an LCO and a golf course superintendent.

The New York State Lawn Care Association, in addition to supporting the green council's efforts, has doubled the lobbying muscle by hiring its own lobbyist.

The regulations for lawn care applications are probably the most stringent of all. Among other provisions, LCO will have to place signs saying "Do Not Enter This Property" every 12 feet around the total perimeter after an application.

Golf courses will post at the pro shop, snack bars, bathrooms and clubhouse on every door, Stark says. Institutions and universities must post doors and two common areas, regardless where spraying is being done, he adds.

Public hearings on the regulations have been swamped with industry representatives, and input has been overwhelmingly against the regs.

One company, Lawn Medic of Bergen, N.Y., sent petitions to 400 customers. About 50 percent signed and mailed them back. The petitions have been shown to legislators.

"A number of the important people in the (legislative) assembly are coming out on our side of the regulations, mainly because they go way above the implied intent of the law," says Don Burton, president of Lawn Medic.



Woodlawn Cemetery sexton James Webber points out the cemetery map and directory used to locate plots.

CEMETERIES

Cemetery engraves plot directory on computer, gets good response

Woodlawn Cemetery in Claremore, Okla., has put its directory of deceased and pre-need plots onto a computer. According to Larry Roberts of Don Griffey & Assoc., Tulsa, the company that put the directory on line, it is the first such list in the country to be computerized.

Stored in the computer are 25,000 names, about 14,000 of which are of deceased, plus directions to grave and plot locations, displayed on a board at the entrance to the cemetery, says cemetery sexton James Webber.

The system went into operation March 1, 1987, and Webber says, has proven very successful. "It's beneficial to out-of-state people," he says. Because of the directory and the cemetery's reputation for excellent maintenance, Webber says, "People have come up from (nearby) Tulsa to buy space."

Webber adds that inquiries have come in from other cities around the country, including Denver, about installing such a directory and the cemetery maintenance program.

RESEARCH

N: no more 'pour-it-on,' Dr. Beard says

A number of trends are developing in turfgrass nutrition strategies as the decade nears its completion, says James Beard, Ph.D., Texas A&M University.

Beard cited four developing trends in a speech to attendees of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America's annual conference in San Antonio in November.

The first trend is toward lower application rates of nitrogen. This is a move away from the "pour-

it-on" philosophy of the past. New research shows that over-applying N can result in loss of carbohydrates needed for winter hardiness in cool-season areas, plus a greater susceptibility to disease as a result. Also, the increased shoot growth would result in more mowing and the removal of nutrients with clippings.

Beard also noted that applications of potassium will increase. He currently recommends applying it at rates of 65 to 85 percent of N once the soil has been raised to the optimum K level, then eventually going to a 1:1 ratio of N to K.

He suggests applying K every three to four weeks during the summer on cool-season turf because it will help



Dr. Beard

SHORT CUTS

SAND, SAND EVERYWHERE...But not a drop to use. Most golf courses in Hawaii use manufactured sand because of a 1975 state law prohibiting use of natural coral sands from the beaches. The other alternative is to use volcanic cinder in greens. "Sands are not all the same," says Charles Murdoch, Ph.D., of the University of Hawaii.

SAME THING WITH TURF...Not only is sand scarce in the islands, but so is sod. Hawaii has only about 25 acres in sod production for the entire state. Many new turf varieties must be quarantined for up to two years before they can be brought from the mainland to the islands. Sugar cane is susceptible to the same viruses as turf, and it would take just one virus to wipe out the entire crop.

NEBULUS NEMATODES...It appears that the pest-fighting nematodes which infect Florida housecrickets is a different, previously unidentified species. Grover Smart, Ph.D., of the University of Florida's entomology department told the Florida Turfgrass Conference that research proving the nematode's identity will be released shortly.

CONGRATULATIONS...Gayle Jacklin, domestic marketing representative for Jacklin Seed, Post Falls, Idaho married Scott Ward on December 5. Ward is a management-trainee with lumber/paper company Boise Cascade. Gayle will use the last name Jacklin-Ward professionally.

BALANCING THE BUDGET...Marvin Gross, owner of Marvin's Gardens, Sarasota, Fla., has a favorite term when it comes to balancing the old budget. The word is "wobble-ate," and it means doing some fancy fudging of numbers when appropriate. From what was said at a panel session presented by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, most landscape contractors are adept "wobble-ators."

A PERFECT FIT...Golf courses and homebuilding go hand-in-hand, as housing developments are proving across the land. According to the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., a residential lot located on a golf course is worth up to 50 percent more than a "no golf" alternative.

recovery in high traffic areas.

Beard feels regular use of iron for rooting will be the norm down the road. While he says that iron exists in the soil, it is rarely in usable form. Thus applications in small amounts will benefit shoot and root growth, color and drought hardiness. He notes that visible results of iron are quick, often less than a half hour.

The trend farthest in the future, Beard believes, is fertilization based on tissue analysis. New technology, he says, will be able to analyze tissue for nutrient content and return results within two days. The cost will be high initially, though, he says.

RESEARCH

Runoff control affects groundwater

The degree of runoff control has an impact on groundwater quality, says Thomas Watschke, Ph.D., Penn State University.

Watschke notes that the main collection points for runoff water are watersheds, which land development often takes away. Not only is the water not given a chance to percolate and filter through the watershed, it is often lost as a resource because it runs off into creeks and rivers and eventually out to sea.



Dr. Watschke



Dr. Sullivan

Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island, says that pesticides often gather along with other toxins. Both Watschke and Sullivan agree that periodic flushings, or alternate periods with and without rain, result in higher concentrations of toxins in runoff water because they are allowed to build up on surfaces like curbsides and roofs. When the built up material is flushed, the concentrations are thus higher.

Research performed by Watschke shows that established groundcover will go a long way toward reducing runoff and filtering out dirt particles holding toxins.

Ideally, sod presents the best solution, if affordable. It is immediate and most effective, able to handle the equivalent of six inches of rainfall per

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