

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). It requires employers to pay about 80 percent of the cost of health premiums. This will cost employers \$27.1 billion a year, says the government, assuming coverage is purchased through indemnity rather than managed care plans.

The ACA is asking its members to send Mailgrams to their senators that state your opposition to the plan. Make your message short and to the point, refer specifically to S. 1265, and thank the senator for help in defeating the bill, says the ACA.

AWARDS

Software, creator earn award nominations

"Slice," a computer system developed for the landscape and nursery industry, and its creator, Gary Thornton, have been nominated to receive awards from the International Data Base Management Association.

Thornton, president of Thornton Computer Management Systems in Cincinnati, is nominated to receive the Association's Technical Achievement Award while "Slice" is one of four programs nominated for the

"Most Innovative" category.

Nominations were made at the third annual Pro-Gramme Awards Presentation in Anaheim, Calif.

INSECTS

Brazilian fly tackles mole crickets

A red-eyed Brazilian fly was recently released in a Florida pasture in an attempt to control spreading mole cricket damage. The effort was reported by Tom Walker, Ph.D., entomologist with the mole cricket control project at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Gainesville.

About the size of house fly, *Euphioptrex depleta* comes to the mating call of mole crickets and lays her living larvae on or near the singer. The larvae then burrow into the male and mate.

"Ten days later, the mole cricket is dead," says Walker. "The larvae come out, pupate and start all over."

Exotic mole crickets, whose tunnels brown-out golf courses, lawns and commercial turf operations, came from South America, probably in the sand ballast of ships. "The flies belong

to a group of 20 fly species that only parasitize crickets, mole crickets and katydids," adds Walker. "Mole crickets are not that abundant in Brazil. This is one of the organisms that keep them in line."

RESEARCH

Biological amendment shows promise in studies AT MSU

Studies conducted at Michigan State University in 1987 showed that monthly applications of Bio Control from KLM Bio Systems reduced "disease expression" of necrotic ring spot and summer patch on Kentucky bluegrass and annual bluegrass.

Necrotic ring spot reduction was significant after three or four applications, according to research conducted by graduate student Brad Melvin and plant pathologist Joe Vargas, Ph.D.

Studies on test plots at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Station in East Lansing also showed the plant growth hormones and microbes in Bio Control reduced thatch in Kentucky bluegrass compared to untreated check plots. The pathogens of both diseases

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