

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

LEGISLATION

New lawn council meets with EPA representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Better communication between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the lawn care industry was a chief topic discussed during a recent meeting in the nation's capital.

The meeting between PLCAA's newly-formed Council for Lawn Care Information and EPA officials was especially timely in light of recent activism against and legislation regulating the use of pest control chemicals in many states.

Those present at the meeting included Jim Wilkinson, PLCAA's director of environmental and regulatory affairs; Bob Earley, publisher of *Lawn Care Industry* magazine; and various LCOs, university experts, manufacturers,

formulators and distributors.

The meeting included a discussion about whether or not LCOs would be included in agricultural worker protection standards currently being promulgated. The lawn care industry would like input on these standards, and would like to see distinctions made between mixers, loaders and applicators.

Depending on the toxicity of particular pesticides, there might someday be three levels of certification required. Some products would be applied only by certified applicators, others would require an on-site supervisor and others would require a supervisor be available within a reasonable time of application. □

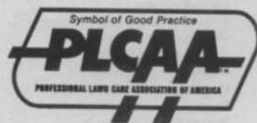
MORE LEGISLATION

PLCAA challenges new local ordinance in Mayfield, Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) has filed in the U.S. District Court of Ohio challenging a local ordinance on constitutional grounds.

The village of Mayfield had passed an ordinance requiring lawn chemical users to notify abutting neighbors when they planned to spray lawns and to tell them the type of chemicals being used.

"The industry is not opposed to reasonable, sound regulation, and we're not opposed to further regulation in the state of Ohio," says PLCAA's Jim Wilkinson. "However, there are some 88,000 local governments in the United States, and if each of those governments decided they wanted to regulate the lawn care industry, it would create ab-



solute chaos."

The PLCAA is asking that Mayfield be permanently restricted from enforcing the ordinance and that it be prohibited from passing similar ordinances.

The association believes that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act established that only states or the federal government could regulate pesticide use. "Mayfield Village," reads the suit, "by purporting to regulate pesticide use, violates the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution."

Sign-posting regulations took affect across Ohio on June 1. They prohibit lawn

service companies from applying pesticides to residential lawns in any municipality or subdivided area of a township without meeting certain requirements.

Requirements include written notification to the property owner listing the pesticides applied and other information.

Companies are also required to make a reasonable attempt to notify residents of adjacent property prior to an application, providing the neighbor has asked the company in writing to provide such notification.

Such proposed legislation is not unprecedented. In 1984, the city of Wauconda, Ill. unsuccessfully tried to pass the same type of laws that would, in effect, pre-empt the FIFRA laws. □

TREES

'Waggle' damage examined in U.K.

LONDON, England — Scientists here are seeking ways to minimize tree damage caused by high winds.

Wind damage results in the loss of hundreds of thousands of trees each year in the United Kingdom, representing approximately 13,000 forest acres.

Dr. Ronnie Milne has been leading a research team at the U.K. Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Terrestrial Ecology that could have applications in the U.S.

Milne reports that 40 mile per hour winds combining with the trees' natural swaying motion results in extreme movement, or "waggle."

Milne and his associates are constructing mathematical models of how trees bend in the wind in order to find ways to reduce the losses due to wind damage. According to Milne, site selection, soil depth, spacing and drainage all affect the trees' wind survivability. □

Companies search for alternatives to synthesized chemical pesticides

RALEIGH, N.C. — America is currently in a state of "chemophobia," says R.L. Brandenburg, extension entomologist at North Carolina State University. Companies are responding by searching for alternatives to synthesized chemical pesticides, he further notes.

"Over the next five years or so it will become more and more important to find alternative approaches," he says. "The public is demanding it, even though they're demanding nicer lawns, nicer shrubs and nicer landscapes at the same time."

The public often receives information that is presented to it in a very emotional fashion, argues Brandenburg. "Sometimes emotion will overrule factual information and, as a result, we need to be looking at some of these other areas and make them available to the public."

The most obvious alternative, yet often overlooked, is to maintain vigorous, healthy turf, says Brandenburg. "Many insects like thin turf because it's easier for them to dig into the soil, lay their eggs and move through and feed on the grass."

Reducing thatch is also important, he adds, because "insects and thatch go together. The thatch provides a protective barrier for them by binding pesticides, preventing them from reaching the insect."

Biologicals currently being used successfully include milky spore and parasitic nematodes for controlling white beetle grubs. "Improved techniques to produce milky spore have been developed and should improve its effectiveness over a wider range of temperatures and species," he says.

Parasitic nematodes have been around for years, but they remain an expensive alternative. "The one that I'm aware of that is available for turf would cost about \$800 an acre. But in a few years, as the technology is improved, these may be produced much more cheaply."

Other biologicals to keep an eye on, according to Brandenburg, include various forms of diatomaceous earth and crustacean shell products, many of which remain untested under controlled situations, but are currently in the marketplace. These products destroy insect eggs. □

FERTILIZATION

It's almost time!

FORT COLLINS, Col. — Fertilization between August and December will improve heat and drought tolerance of turfgrass and result in less mowing, according to researchers at Colorado State University.

Studies by Drs. Tony Koski, cooperative extension horticulturalist, and Ohio State turf specialist John Street showed late season applications of nitrogen enhance fall and winter color of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue. The studies also determined that

continued on page 14



Dr. John Street

BIG NUMBERS... Roundup herbicide should enter the elite ranks of \$1 billion products, according to an analysis by Prudential-Bache Securities. The firm predicts worldwide sales of Monsanto's popular broad spectrum herbicide to exceed that mark sometime in 1989.

THE DEADLINE... for entering the 20th Annual Associated Landscape Contractors of America's Environmental Improvement Awards Program is Sept. 1. Entry forms can be obtained by calling ALCA at (703) 241-4004.

'PLACEBOUND STUDENTS'... The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has a new program for non-traditional students who cannot leave work or family to attend school. The innovative program is for students who pursue a degree in ornamental horticulture and the most recent graduate is **Hilberto Gilbey**, manager of Ram Plant Growers in Fort Lauderdale. "The program helps industry employees who also want to continue their education and training," says **Dr. Stephen Verkade**, program coordinator. A full, four-year offering of courses is expected by next year.

OLD FRIENDS NEVER DIE... An old friend, **J. Mark Nuzum**, has joined Western Branch Holding Company Nitrex as vice president of specialty products. Nuzum, who has been in the green industry since his days at Turf Wiz and Tidewater Agricorp, is formerly a manager with the Turf Division of Lebanon Chemical Co.

COOLING SPRINGS... According to a recent article in *Golf Digest*, golf course construction in Palm Springs, Calif., may be one of the reasons the area's temperatures have dropped since the early 1970s. **Dr. Robert Balling** of Arizona State University says that solar energy is absorbed by concrete and asphalt in urban areas while golf courses and other parklands have an opposite, cooling effect. Palm Springs temperatures have dropped about two or three degrees in the last 15 years.

POURING IT ON... Despite new efforts by the green industry to decrease pesticide use through IPM programs and bio-controls, overall U.S. pesticide demand will grow four percent yearly through 1992. According to an independent report by **John Clifford** of The Freedonia Group, Cleveland, Ohio, pesticide sales will reach \$5.4 billion by 1992. "Biological control measures cannot match pesticides' effectiveness and thus will not displace their dominant role," a press release notes.



Dr. Tony Koski

these grasses green up in spring without additional fertilization.

Less mowing is required because late season fertilization avoids a burst of spring growth and the resultant need to mow, they said.

Koski and Street also found that urea and Lawn Restore, both organic fertilizers, provide the best late fall/early winter turf color when applied at a 1 lb. of N per 1,000 sq. ft. rate, in late September to late October.

The best early spring color was seen with IBDU and Scotts 41-0-0 applied at the same time and rates as urea and Lawn Restore.

More information on late season fertilization in "Research Update" next month.—ED. □

REFERENCE

News bulletin for busy managers

CINCINNATI—A monthly newsletter for property managers is now also available to landscapers and chemical lawn care companies.

Landscapes and Grounds Care Bulletin is meant to foster appreciation for commercial landscape work, increase sales through education and to give busy managers a way to stay in touch with clients.

Future bulletins will include information on chemical trimming and vegetation control, and weed control.

For more information, contact Focal Point Communications at (800) 525-6999. □

PRODUCTS

New technology in fertilizers has one application per year

MILPITAS, Calif. — Sierra Chemical Co. has released to the turf industry a revolutionary new fertilizer. Called Customblen, these resin-coated controlled-release fertilizers are based upon Sierra's Osmocote technology. They release nutrients to the turf plant for up to one year with one application.

The product has been used in the nursery market for the last 20 years, but is new to turf.

"Sierra has recently developed a line of products for both turf and ornamental use in landscape, lawn care and golf course applications," claims marketing manager Mark Broxon. "University turfgrass researchers are testing controlled release fertilizer (CRF) products this year.

Response from distributors, landscape managers and superintendents to these materials so far has been excellent."

The resin coating releases the nutrients in a different manner than slow-release materials like sulfur-coated urea. Osmocote's nutrient release is strictly dependent on temperature. "When the temperature is higher, the plant needs more nutrients—but not enough to burn it. These products release nutrients in accordance with turf and plant growth needs," says Broxon.

Two longevities (5- to 6-month and 8- to 9-month) are available and under trial. The 8- to 9-month release formula would be used for the majority of the country, including most

Midwest, lower East Coast and West Coast areas. The 5- to 6-month formulation would be used in northern climates like the upper Midwest, North and New England. For Sunbelt areas, two applications of the 8- to 9-month release products are recommended.

Turfgrass analyses available are 34-0-7; 24-6-10; 0-0-46; and 25-0-18. A 15-12-13 flower and ornamental fertilizer is available in 5- to 6-month longevity only.

"These products are expensive to make and use, but a single application is the selling point," Broxon concludes.

For more information, write Sierra at 1001 Yosemite Dr., Milpitas, CA 95035; or phone (800) 492-8255. □

XERISCAPE

New garden illustrates conservation and beauty

MESA, Ariz. — To demonstrate the water conservation properties and beauty of xeriscaping, a one-acre xeriscape garden was recently opened for public viewing here.

The result of a joint venture between Mesa Community College, Salt River Project and the city of Mesa, the garden provides examples of new design possibilities, and ways to replace or modify existing landscapes to make them more water efficient.

"This was definitely a community project," says Paul Freestone, water conservation specialist for the city of Mesa. "We started the garden with \$25,000 in cash and ended up with a landscape project worth approximately \$150,000." Thirty-nine landscape and irrigation companies donated time and material to



Ron Dinchak, Mesa Community College life science instructor (kneeling), explains planting techniques to his students.

the garden, and local citizens donated their time to complete the project. Extra help was provided by the University of Arizona Extension Service and Arizona State University's Graphic Arts Department.

The garden features 150 varieties of shrubs and

ground covers, 60 varieties of trees and three types of turfgrasses. All are zoned in accordance with their water needs and sun exposure. Signs posted throughout the garden identify the various plants and explain the principles of xeriscaping. □



The Mulching Solution

Now you can cut mulching time by up to 75%. And get excellent coverage that significantly improves moisture retention and germination.

All with our "Mulching Solution," the Goossen Bale Chopper. Available in the self-powered model shown, or the even more economical P.T.O. version.

Ask about the convenient terms available with Goossen's all-new **TurfTeam Leasing**.

Goossen

INDUSTRIES

Call Toll-Free 1-800-228-6542 • (In Nebraska: 402-228-4226)
P.O. Box 705 • Beatrice, Nebraska 68310

Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card



Date palms in their native Indio, Calif. location before their replanting in Phoenix by Valley Crest Landscape.

LANDSCAPING

Trees plant temporary roots

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Hundreds of date palm trees have been planted in the middle of downtown Phoenix prior to their eventual relocation to an area landscaping project.

Valley Crest Landscape, a subsidiary of Environmental Industries, Inc., is responsible for the urban forest. The company is completing Arizona Center, a \$515 million office/retail project on 18.5 acres.

Rouse-Phoenix Development Corp. is building the center.

More than 900 trees were planted at the urban resting place. The mature specimen trees are at least 15 years old, and range in height from 20 to 42 feet.

Valley Crest purchased an entire date grove in Indio, Calif., and shipped them 250 miles to Phoenix.

The relocation is expected to last into 1990. □

ORNAMENTALS

'Common sense' helps control insect problems

RALEIGH, N.C. — The best method of insect control on ornamentals is often common sense, says J.R. Baker, Ph.D., an extension entomologist at North Carolina State University.

"If you're fortunate enough to choose which plants are to go into a landscape, select varieties that don't have a lot of insect and mite problems," suggests Baker. A visit to a nearby, healthy landscape will reveal which varieties are thriving and which aren't.

Another seemingly obvious step is to select plants that are healthy to start with. For example, look for cankers on the stem of dogwoods, which attract dogwood borers. If box elders are being considered, use



Dr. J.R. Baker

males. Females produce seeds, which attract box elder bugs.

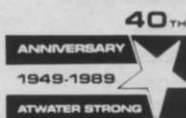
"Also, if you're setting out shade trees, make sure you have a way to irrigate them for the first couple years," says Baker. "Once a tree starts to wilt just a little bit, it will be susceptible to flat-headed wood borers, round-headed wood borers, ambrosia beetle, bark beetle—any type of insect that is attracted to trees under stress." □

REMOVE VOLUMES OF WET, DENSE MATERIALS FAST

16HP MI-T-VAC® HEAVY-DUTY COMMERCIAL LOADER

- 3600 cfm (free vacuum) force
- 16 HP I/C Briggs engine • 8-blade cast magnesium heat treated impeller
- 18' X 8" intake hose • Venting not required
- Trailer and hose boom extra

Made in USA for 40 Years
by the Originators
of Quality Commercial
Vacuums and Blowers



MIT-VAC®

ATWATER STRONG

P.O. Box 1108 • Akron, OH 44309
(216) 630-9822 • FAX 1-216-633-8701
SEE US AT BOOTH #5200 AT EXPO '89 IN LOUISVILLE

Circle No. 103 on Reader Inquiry Card

Sandoz pops Nader for wrongful report

DES PLAINES, Ill. — John A. Licata, director of environmental, health, safety and quality assurance for Sandoz Crop Protection Corp., took no time to fire off a poignant response to a recent anti-pesticide report.

The highly-publicized report was issued by Ralph Nader's Public Citizen's Congress Watch on the lawn care industry. Licata's letter to the author of the report points out inaccuracies in the group's criticism of the herbicide Banvel and, along the way, gives us a good model to follow when undue criticism rears its ugly head.

Licata writes that Banvel is not restricted in California and that "there is no substantiation that dicamba, the active ingredient in Banvel, is

associated with an increased chance of miscarriage." He points out that fetotoxicity was slightly increased in rabbit studies—which is not unusual—and that the study's author considered it insignificant when making the report.

Also, concerning remarks that the product is a threat to groundwater, Licata says that "...because of its rapid degradation and the soil absorption of the degradation products, dicamba is not normally detected in surface or groundwater. It has not been detected at levels above the EPA's health advisory level."

Besides Banvel, Sandoz also produces Bonzi growth regulator, Mavrik Aquaflo and Pentac for the lawn and landscape markets. □



A.A.N. director of government relations Ben Bolusky (at podium) offers the association's support of "oasis legislation" in Washington, D.C. At right is Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz, who introduced the act.

NURSERIES

Nurserymen like oasis ideas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) has come out in favor of the Urban and Community Forestry Act of 1989.

The bill has become

known as "oasis legislation" because it supports the practice of tree planting to help cool urban areas.

Ben Bolusky, A.A.N. director of government af-
continued on page 26

Move water the easy way . . . with an Otterbine® Floating Portable Pump

Just throw it in and start it! These self-priming pumps with built in strainers are made for quick starts and smooth running. Drain water from: ditches, sand bunkers, swimming pools, holding ponds — any flooded area! Irrigates and much more.

DEPENDABLE: Four stroke Briggs & Stratton engine means years of trouble free service.

PORTABLE: Can be operated by just 1 person.

EASY TO USE: No mixing of gas and oil, can be operated in just 3 inches of water.

HIGH VOLUME: Delivers pumping power WHEN and WHERE you need it!

Set it and forget it — the Otterbine Floating Portable Pump

For more information call or write:



R.D. 2, P.O. Box 217
Emmaus, PA 18049
USA
(215) 965-6018



Circle No. 105 on Reader Inquiry Card



WIPE OUT INSECT PESTS.

Here's broad spectrum protection that can wipe a whole line-up of insects right out of the picture: ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray.

Cleared for use on a long list of trees and plants, ORTHENE is also cleared for turf insects — including mole crickets in Florida. With ORTHENE, one spray kills pests like tent caterpillars, whiteflies, Japanese beetles and thrips on contact. Also, use ORTHENE for lasting residual action against other insects from aphids to sod webworms.

ORTHENE kills both on contact and by systemic action. It makes the whole job of protecting lawns, golf course turf, trees, shrubs and flowers simpler, more convenient and more effective. Give yourself the edge against insects. Control them with ORTHENE Turf, Tree & Ornamental Spray.

Avoid accidents. For safety, read the entire label including precautions. Use all chemicals only as directed. Copyright © 1989 Valent U.S.A. Corporation. All rights reserved. ORTHENE® is a registered trademark of Chevron Chemical Company.



ORTHENE®
TURF, TREE &
ORNAMENTAL SPRAY

A.A.N. from page 22

fairs, said the bill was "strong, immediate action that communities can take to green up and cool off our cities, and a sound approach to restoring the health of our urban environments."

The bill, introduced by Congressman Jim Jontz (D-Ind.), will serve to complement the Global Releaf Program, a campaign to plant 100 million trees in American cities and towns by 1992.

The bill will promote tree planting in urban areas and increase research and educational efforts to improve the public's understanding of tree and forest ecology in urban areas. It also will provide for increased technical assistance and a competitive grants program to support urban and community forestry projects.

With A.A.N.'s backing, a large number of trees are expected to be acquired from private nurseries.

The association will also provide private nursery advice to the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. □

AWARDS

NRVMA calls for 1989 nominations

CENTERVILLE, Del. — The National Roadside Vegetation Management Association has issued a call for entries in its 1989 *Excellence in Roadside Vegetation Management* awards program. The deadline for entries is July 15.

Established in 1985, the awards program recognizes the achievements of professionals who are responsible for vegetation management along the nation's roads and highways. Profiles of some of last year's winners appear in this issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*.

The competition is open to all individuals or organizations involved in roadside vegetation management. Entries may be

submitted in one of two categories: roadside industry (state depts. of transportation and county or city road depts.) and roadside support (academic or industry contributions). Individuals may nominate their own operation or submit nominations on behalf of colleagues or business associates.

For additional entry details and a nomination form, write: NRVMA Awards Program, c/o McCullough & Assoc., P.O. Box 24, Eureka, IL 61530, or call (217) 356-9507. □

EQUIPMENT

OPEI: Consumer mag went too far

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute is not happy with Consumer Reports magazine's recent survey of lawn tractors.

"They went too far," says John Liskey, OPEI's director of statistical and technical services.

"They got a little bit of information and they just carried it to extremes."

The survey appeared in the consumer monthly's June issue. Twenty-two lawn tractors were tested for the report. All were 12-hp, with bagging attachments.

"Although some tractors go beyond the industry's voluntary safety standard requirements, the design shortcomings in other models heighten the risks inherent in any grass cutting machine," said the report.

For three models, the report determined it was too easy to kick the gearshift lever into gear accidentally when climbing on or off the tractor.

Weaknesses found in other tractors included: susceptibility to bucking and rearing; inadequate "deadman" controls; separate controls for speed and direction; slow stopping (3 seconds or more) blades; and noise pollution.

One of the Institute's major objections to the report was its stability test.

Continued on page 27

INDUSTRY

Future Farmers to emphasize turf

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The Future Farmers of America (F.F.A.) is planning to alter its annual contest for high school students to place more emphasis on the turf/landscape market by 1991.

"We have had insufficient emphasis in the turf area," notes Dr. Alan R. McDaniel of Virginia Tech, the man in charge of the contest re-evaluation. "Today, agriculture is not your traditional crop and animal production. Only one person in six in the agriculture industry is directly related to food production."

McDaniel says that the new emphasis on turf-related studies will definitely have an impact on the industry in the future. "It represents an introduction to horticulture, landscaping and turf at the high school level," he says.

Helping McDaniel restructure the F.F.A. contest is assistant Frank B. Flanders of the University of Georgia. Also on the advisory board are Bob Brophy of Cushman; Richard Anderson and Ron Lytle of Kubota; Thomas Carter of Jacobsen; Andy Seckinger of Chipco Specialty Products; and Brian Corsini, Carl Meyer and Andy Klapis of the American Association of Nurserymen and the Wholesale Nursery Growers Association.

"The F.F.A. has noted a tremendous decline in students who want to study strictly agriculture," says Brophy. "Most of the emphasis is now in urban horticultural areas. We gave them parameters of what the industry is looking for." □

NEWS from page 26

The test consisted of placing tractors on a 15° slope with a 175 lb. rider, grass catcher in place with 25 lb. weights in each bag. The engines were set at full throttle with the gear shift lever in the highest gear. The clutch was released quickly to determine the extent of front wheel lift-off. Four of the machines experienced "extreme" front wheel lift-off.

"To get the exact scenario," explains Liskey, "you have to make an awful lot of assumptions. That people stop on 15° slopes, with a loaded bag, run the engine at full throttle and pop the clutch. It would have been nice if they had talked to the industry a little bit more prior to discussion of some of the points relative to safety recommendations."

Liskey said the institute would be responding to the report. □

MARKETING

Survey explores buying habits

OAKLAND, Calif. — Most California gardeners spend between \$50 and \$299 a year on garden supplies and plant material, according to the University of California Cooperative Extension.

The UCCE recently conducted a survey to determine the buying habits of home gardeners around the state.

The survey results show that gardeners who shop at full service garden centers spend the most money. Almost 54 percent of these shoppers spend \$150 or more in an average year, while only 37.5 percent of those who shop at other businesses for their supplies spend that much.

The decorative value of gardening was ranked as the most important reason to garden. □

Whatever sort of grounds you manage professionally, DIQUAT Herbicide H/A can help you keep them clean and trim. With its fast-acting formula, DIQUAT gives rapid burn-down, usually within 24-48 hours, of a wide variety of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. DIQUAT has a proven track record for getting rid of unwanted grasses and weeds, even under less-than-ideal weather conditions. A non-selective contact herbicide, DIQUAT will burn back or control nearly anything green to which it is applied.

To help DIQUAT work at its best, use X-77 Spreader (non-ionic). X-77 makes spray droplets spread quickly and evenly to coat waxy leaf surfaces for optimum performance.

Check the savings versus a more expensive application of ROUNDUP.* DIQUAT does the job with a substantial savings! Get DIQUAT Herbicide H/A — and wipe out problem weeds, fast!

Avoid accidents. For safety, read the entire label including precautions. Use all chemicals only as directed. Copyright © 1989 Valent U.S.A. Corporation. All rights reserved. ROUNDUP* is a registered trademark of Monsanto Company.



DIQUAT HERBICIDE H/A

Circle No. 154 on Reader Inquiry Card

WIPE OUT PROBLEM WEEDS.

