

# Connecticut users, DEP find harmony

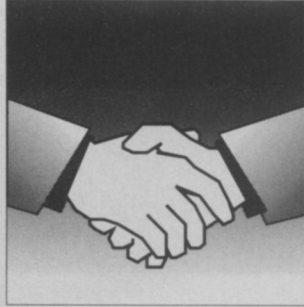
HARTFORD, Conn. — New pesticide application posting laws in Connecticut have not only led to a precedent-setting requirement for homeowners, but apparently to new-found harmony between industry users and state environmental groups as well.

The statute took effect this year. Among the law's highlights:

- A requirement to post a 4-by-5-inch sign, including the company's name and telephone number, at the time of exterior application of any pesticide. The law applies to homeowners and lawn maintenance companies.

- A requirement for golf courses to erect a 12-inch square sign at a conspicuous location, and on the first and 10th tees.

- A state-maintained registry of those who want to be notified in advance of an application. To be placed onto this registry, a persons property must abut and be within 100 yards of the affected area's boundary.



The state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will yearly publish a list of those seeking advance notification. (About 83 have applied for advance notification.)

Steven Blum, a spokesman for the Professional Pesticide Users of Connecticut (PPUC), says the new regulations are "workable," and will not affect the cost of doing business. They came about through tough but pragmatic negotiations with the Clean Water Coalition (CWC), an environmental association of 16 state organizations.

Blum says regulations "could have been a lot worse." What has emerged,

he says, is a "balanced bill that can be a model for other states to follow.

"The key is that applicators may post when they arrive on the job," he says. That keeps costs down by eliminating an extra trip to the site. Other states have 24- and 48-hour advance notification requirements, Blum says.

Bradford Robinson, a senior analyst with the DEP's pesticide division, says that including homeowners could be a first in the U.S. Exemptions for homeowners include areas less than 100 square feet or fenced-in areas.

But the registry and homeowner requirements have Robinson somewhat concerned; not for their intents, but in practical terms of administration and enforcement.

"We have no idea how this (new law) is going to work. It is our first year. There are all sorts of potential problems enforcing it," Robinson says.

Meanwhile, PPUC executive director Don Kiley, also a state lobbyist for the pesticide industry, says 1987 discussions between the PPUC and the CWC and the following cooperation between the two groups as the law was shepherded through the state legislature, nets a "mutual respect."

"There was some good hard bargaining, yes. But all of us were very satisfied to put this potentially contentious issue to bed.

"We feel this is a landmark agreement that goes way beyond the issues themselves. We have now established a lasting mutual respect," says Kiley, who was an industry negotiator when the two groups jointly approached the Connecticut legislature.

—Jack Simonds □

in a depressed market, and in a state of (the Persian Gulf) war, we can raise \$105,000 from the industry in three weeks. We (solicited) the majority of companies," says Wade, "and they came back swinging. They realize the importance of the horticulture curriculum for the industry."

Chipping in for the cause were landscape contractors, sod farmers, irrigation companies, garden centers and state landscape and gardening associations, many of whom are SUNY alumni.

"Now all we've got to do," says Wade, "is get the politicians to put the money back in the budget."

—Terry McIver □

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"State university systems in general are getting the ax from our illustrious governor," explains Wade. "I don't know whether (Cuomo) is playing political handball; I think that's what it's boiling down to." Wade also notes the adversarial relationship between Cuomo and Republican Senate leader Ralph Marino as a motivating factor.

"I think," suggests Wade, "Cuomo is hammering Long Island educational institutions to get Marino to bend on something else."

The good news is the support for SUNY by the Long Island horticulture/landscape industry.

"It's really amazing, that

## EVENTS

### APRIL

**15-16: Southeastern Turf Conference.** Contact: Karen White, (404) 769-4076, or write Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association, P.O. Box 683, Watkinsville, GA 30677.

**15-18: First International Conference on Turf,** Sheffield University, Sheffield, England. Contact: Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton-Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England MK12 5LG; or call Elaine at (0908) 312511.

**18-19: GreenTech '91,** Long Beach, Calif. Contact: California Landscape Contractors Association Seminars, 2021 N Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA, 95814; (916) 448-2522.

**20-30: American Society of Golf Course Architects annual meeting,** England. Contact ASGCA, 221 North LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601; (312) 372-7090.

**22-24: Golf Development Expo,** Palm Springs, Calif. Contact: John Ecklein, Crittenden Research Institute, P.O. Box 1150, Novato, CA 94948; (415) 382-2486.

### MAY

**4-7: Menninger Sunbelt Tree Conference,** West Palm Beach, Fla. Contact: P.O. Box 6524, Clearwater, FL 34618; (813) 446-3356.

**18-19: Florida Landscape Certification Program,** Valencia Community College, Orlando. Contact: Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, 5401 Kirkman Rd., Suite 650, Orlando, FL 32819; (407) 345-8137.

**18-21: International Society of Arboriculture Western Chapter Conference and Trade Show,** Modesto, Calif. Contact: Allen Lagarbo, (209) 577-5344.