

## STATES WHICH REQUIRE COMMERCIAL FIRMS TO NOTIFY WHEN APPLYING LAWN CARE PRODUCTS TO RESIDENTIAL LAWNS

State	Direct Notification				Posting	Registry
	In advance		When applied			
	Customer	Neighbor	Customer	Neighbor		
Arizona			X			
Colorado			X		X	X
Connecticut	X	X			X	X
Delaware	X	X	X	X		
Florida	X		X		X	X
Illinois		X	X	X	X	
Indiana			X		X	
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	
Kansas			X			
Kentucky	X	X	X	X	X	
Maine		X			X	
Maryland	X		X		X	X
Massachusetts	X		X		X	
Minnesota			X			
New Jersey	X	X			X	
New Mexico			X			
New York	X				X	
Ohio		X	X	X	X	
Pennsylvania		X				X
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	
Wisconsin	X		X		X	

Source: General Accounting Office

## Let the EPA do it, GAO tells Senate

■ The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) is playing Washington D.C.'s version of "pass it on, no returns."

The GAO was asked last spring by Senator Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) to determine the effectiveness of state pesticide notification laws. This fall, it reported back to Reid and said the job belongs with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The GAO added that the EPA should pass on what it finds to *all* states, "thus helping those states interested in modifying existing programs or those states about to begin notification programs."

Reid is co-sponsor, along with Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), of Senate Bill 849 which calls for nationwide pesticide notification by commercial applicators. The proposed federal legislation figured prominently in hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Toxic

Substances last May, but has received almost no publicity since.

The GAO report said none of the 23 states requiring commercial applicators to provide notification when applying lawn care pesticides has "formally assessed the effectiveness" of their laws. Also, seven states maintain registries of individuals wanting notification when commercial firms apply pesticides within certain distances of their homes.

"EPA officials told us they were aware of state notification programs but did not have sufficient information to reach any firm conclusion regarding whether such programs are effective," said the report.

The EPA will seek out regulatory officials, individuals on state registries and lawn care professionals to determine how effective these notification programs are, said the GAO report.

## Missoula voters 'just say no' to posting law

■ An admittedly poorly-written ordinance requiring the posting of properties sprayed with pesticides was defeated by the voters of Missoula, Mont. on Nov. 6.

Final vote was 5,814 against, 4,352 for.

This particular issue was of immediate importance to the green industry, according to Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (R.I.S.E.). Its loss signals to other communities that the voting public does not support over-regulation.

"R.I.S.E. cannot fight all local ordinances, but we have chosen Missoula because it...can be used as a precedent in other areas," R.I.S.E. executive director Allen James told LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT last month.

Brad Selstad, a Missoula lawn care operator, told the *Missoulian* newspaper that the ordinance was defeated because it was poorly written and lacked public support. Due to pre-vote compromises between green industry interests and the Montana Public Interest Research Group (Mont P.I.R.G.), the burden of posting would have been placed on the homeowner, had the ordinance passed.

After the election, Mont P.I.R.G. was not ready to give up the fight. Executive director Brad Martin told the *Missoulian*, "I'm not sure that with a little more work, this community might rise up in strong support of an ordinance."

## 'Day on Hill' is scheduled for Feb., 1992

■ The 1992 Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) "Legislative Day on the Hill" is Feb. 24-25.

PLCAA said DowElanco will provide speakers and some of the meals. There is no registration fee. Any lawn care company owner or manager can attend. PLCAA said it's making arrangements with a hotel close to the Capitol for attendees.

For more information, contact PLCAA at (404) 977-5222.