

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

### LEGISLATION

# Green industry petitions for practical regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Green industry representatives campaigned here on May 9 for lawn care product legislation that simply makes sense, during Senate hearings on pesticide use. And despite an emotional offensive from alleged victims of pesticide poisoning, industry spokespersons believe their voices were heard.

"I felt good about the approach the senators took," said Ann McClure, executive director of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA). "They were on a fact-finding mission. They are willing to take a look at the issue. There's no doubt that public citizens want to know if they're in danger. They deserve to know, but there's a broad spectrum of choices of ways to solve it."

It's not that PLCAA doesn't want notification standards, it just wants those standards to be practical.

McClure outlined for the subcommittee the notification and training programs it supports for both commercial and non-commercial users of lawn care products.

"PLCAA endorses the concept of reasonable and responsible national regulation of the lawn care services industry," said



PLCAA's McClure: "I can't overemphasize our concern when we hear stories about reactions to chemicals."

McClure, "and is pleased to share with this subcommittee an outline of the very positive program we support."

The PLCAA program includes standards for:

- Pre-notification, one day in advance, to customers who tell the applicator they wish to be notified; persons whose property abuts an applicator's customer's property who notify the applicator that they wish to be pre-notified; and persons whose names are registered as

"chemically sensitive."

- Posting a 4 x 5-inch sign at the primary point of access to the property immediately following an application. Residential properties of more than four families would be marked at all primary points of entry.

- Licensing and training for all commercial pesticide applicators, regardless of whether the pesticides applied are classified for general or restricted use.

"What we're disagreeing

on," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), "is the nature of the right-to-know."

"We do highly recommend to our members that they tell customers exactly what they are doing," replied McClure, when asked by Lieberman why the burden of seeking information is placed on the customer. "The question we're addressing now is, who else needs to know?"

"We think that other people who may suffer a reaction to the chemicals certainly ought to know also. It's got to be done in some practical way."

The Notification of Chemical Application Act of 1991 (S.B. 849), introduced by Lieberman and Harry Reid (D-Nev.) would require commercial applicators of lawn care and other non-agricultural chemicals to provide detailed written contracts to all customers. Others who may come in contact with lawn care products would also have to be notified. Notification would include persons within 1000 feet of the property, a draconian provision that would play havoc with company time and scheduling.

"When you get into broad contexts of the bill," said Warren Stickle, presi-

dent of the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, "you would find you'd have to notify 25,000 people for one application of pesticides."

Stickler suggested the bill include a requirement for a registry list, much like the registry now used in seven states.

As an alternative to the 1000 feet provision, McClure recommended to Sen. Reid that the treated property be posted, adjacent residents be notified, and a registry of chemically sensitive persons be established.

McClure opposed the mandatory contract provision in the proposed bill on two grounds. One, customers don't want to be bound to a contract; and, two, because of the part nature plays in the business.

"We are dealing with something that is alive and changing," said McClure. "The weather is variable, and it's very difficult to say that every first week in June, we will apply something."

Senator John Warner (R-Va.) pursued the issue of homeowner qualifications, questioning McClure in detail about the training requirements for commercial applicators. He then asked whether homeowners are subjecting themselves to risk through misapplication.

"I happen to think the homeowner is subjected to risk, and has the potential to subject his neighbors to risk," responded Fred Hundt, vice president of marketing for the Ringer Corp., a maker of organic lawn care products.

"I would just offer that the only instruction the homeowner may receive is from what's on the bottle, assuming he or she reads it," said William Roberts, vice president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association.

"Beyond that, I'd wonder about time of application and rate of application. Do homeowners actually take the time to go out and calibrate equipment so

that it's applied properly?"

Said Stickler: "There are a number of companies spending millions of dollars to look at alternatives to pesticides. In the 1990s, we may very well see some of these products come on the market. In the long run they will provide an opportunity to those who want organic or biological control product to avail themselves of that kind of product. We will see a balance between the synthetic pesticides and the new bio-



**Warren Stickle, left, president of the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association, and Mike Stevens, chief executive officer of Howard Johnsons Enterprises, presented information on the benefits of lawn care products when they are used safely.**

logical control type products."

"Business is driven by the market," said McClure, who said some PLCAA members have been receiving more inquiries from customers interested in organic products.

#### **The other side**

Dr. Janette Sherman of Alexandria, Va., a specialist in internal medicine, said America was at risk of fostering an "impaired population: with respiratory problems, neurological problems, learning disabilities, kids who can't go to school."

"The widespread use of chemical means to prevent or to rid a building of insects is also suspect when the corporations pushing these chemicals are also those that benefit from their sales."

Sherman expressed great mistrust of chemical company research, which

she compared to "having Dracula guard the blood bank."

Thomas Latimer of Dallas testified he was poisoned and disabled by the interaction of the prescription drug Tagamet and diazinon insecticide he applied to his lawn.

"I do not want diazinon banned, nor do I want Tagamet removed from the market," said Latimer. "I am simply requesting that the corporations and government agencies work to

Hussein threatened to use during the Persian Gulf war. That prompted Warner to caution the group to go easy on the sensationalism.

"We have a duty not to unduly scare the public," cautioned Warner. "Alar was depicted as the killer of all children. And let's be very careful in our references to historical military use. There is a non-partisan bureaucracy struggling to get to the issue."

#### **Balance and sense**

Tom Delaney, PLCAA director of government affairs, said later that he thought the hearings went "fairly well," and that Senator Warner brought "some balance and common sense to what's going on. He interviewed each of the witnesses, and asked what kind of advice they would give to people using the products. Just about without exception, they said they want (users) to read and follow the labels," not totally eliminate the products.

"We're not against regulation," said Delaney. "We could work on every one of Lieberman's points, but not the way he wants them. We were very strong on the point that these are the same products homeowners are using. I think I got the point across."

Next item on the agenda is negotiations among industry representatives and the committee, to see if they can reach a compromise. "In its present form," said Delaney, "not even the senators were agreeing that it could work."

Sources inside industry say the Lieberman bill will not pass, thanks to intensive company lobbying, and the possibility that homeowners might themselves come under scrutiny. For any law to be fair and practical, homeowners who apply control products would have to obey notification and posting requirements as well, which might sour them from buying products altogether.

—Terry McIver □

## No predictions on case being reviewed by the Supreme Court soon

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Green industry representatives who sat through oral arguments in the Supreme Court case of *Mortier v. Town of Casey* were unwilling, as *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine went to press, to make any predictions on the case's outcome.

Implications of the case will affect how professional pesticide applicators go about their business.

"We've had a hard time getting people in the industry to realize how significant this case is," says Steve Hardymon of ChemLawn. He and Tom Delaney of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America both attended the Supreme Court arguments here.

"The judged seemed

very interested in this case," says Delaney. "They were asking some common-sense questions and not high-tech legal stuff.

"The majority of us (who were there) think we'll win 5-4, just based on the questions asked by the judges."

The case hinges on the *Town of Casey* (Wisc.) claim that it can pass and enforce its own pesticide regulations. From 1981 through 1985, it enacted five separate pieces of pesticide regulation. Industry insists that pesticide use restrictions are a function of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

"It's a wait-and-see situation until the decision comes out," says ChemLawn's Hardymon. □



Teddi Davis of The Garick Corp. (left), Bob Andrews of PLCAA and Tom Garber of ALCA.

### ORGANIZATIONS

## Green Expo set thru 1995

CLEVELAND — Representatives of three turf and landscape organizations met here May 14 to sign an agreement that guarantees the existence of the Green Industry Expo through the year 1995.

"It's been an ordeal, a rocky road, but it's been a rewarding experience," said Bob Andrews, who represented the Professional Lawn Care Association of America.

The agreement was needed largely to define the role each of the organizations will play in the

expo. Under its terms, the PLCAA will be the trade show manager through 1994; in 1995, a third party can be hired in its stead, if the organizations so decide.

Tom Garber represented the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). "The industry as a whole can relax and count on this show through 1995 now," he said. "The show will develop a life of its own as 1995 approaches." Under the agreement, the PLCAA will receive 55.0%

*continued on page 62*

New

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# ATHLETIC TURF

## Too much synthetic?

The Seattle, Wash., area has become a haven for synthetic turf manufacturers. According to a series of articles in the Seattle synthetic football fields at the high school level are booming there.

One article, written by P-I reporter Greg Brown, notes that the 14-team South Puget Sound League has just three teams still playing on real grass. The city of Bellevue has four high school synthetic fields, valued at \$2.8 million each. Twenty-five Washington high schools, most of them in the greater Seattle area, are now synthetic.

However, another article, also written by Brown, questions the safety of synthetic fields.

"In the debut of Bellevue High School's field Sept. 21 (1990), Mike Camlin was the fourth Redmond player sidelined in the first half in what Redmond Coach Jim Sampson calls the most injuries he's seen in a half in 12 seasons," Brown's article notes. The injuries were torn knee ligaments and cartilage (to Camlin), a bruised rib, a bruised shoulder and loss of breath. □

IPM

## Florida County officially adopts IPM practices

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Sarasota County officials say they have officially adopted integrated pest management practices to decrease pesticide use on all county government properties.

But is this anything more than a publicity stunt, a jumping on the IPM bandwagon just to keep the wolves away from the door?

Michael Holsinger, director of the County Extension Service at the University of Florida's Institute of Food Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), says IPM is "the wave of the future. Citizens want environmentally safe pest control, the cost of research and registration for new pesticides continues to climb and there's a lot less liability involved with integrated pest management than with pesticides that are toxic to humans and animals."

Holzinger describes IPM as a practice that uses as few chemicals as possible. "When chemicals are necessary," writes the IFAS, "the least toxic are used."

After six months of preparation, the IPM mandate was made effective on April 2, following a vote by county commissioners and an 11-member citizens' advisory committee on environmental pest management.

"There's been a lot of rhetoric written about IPM over the past few years," says Holzinger, who admits that many of those who promote IPM have conflicting definitions for the practice. "The guidelines are somewhat limited," admits Holzinger, "but the general guidelines say you don't destroy the beneficial predators, and you should try to use pest-

resistant plants."

The extension service news release describing the program uses the words "toxic" and "least toxic," when describing chemicals. But is toxicity an issue when chemicals are used correctly? Yes and no, says Holzinger. "Say you have a selection of 10 different materials," he explains. "You want to select the least toxic of those. There are degrees of differences. I would consider Orthene and Dursban a lot more toxic than insecticidal soaps or horticultural oils, and diazinon more toxic than Orthene and Dursban."

*Bacillus thuringiensis* (bt)—a biological control agent that has proved to be the most effective of the as-yet limited biological products—is part of the county plan, as are nematodes for mole cricket control.

Structural pest control is included in the county IPM plan. Precor and Gencor growth regulators are used against fleas and roaches.

Even though many professionals are prudent when it comes to chemical use, Holzinger says they face the scrutiny of suspicious customers when chemicals are not used.

"The average customers feel they need to have something applied to feel they are getting their money's worth," Holzinger realizes. "The biggest problem with the way IPM is presented is that it's difficult for people to see concrete steps they can take to implement an IPM program."

"We need to develop appreciation for the fact that we're not going to eradicate insects," he concludes. "We have to set thresholds before treatment." □

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Circle No. 103 on Reader Inquiry Card

## New PLCAA dues structure a definite plus

MARIETTA, Ga.—The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) reports a two percent gain in new members, and believes its new rate structure will bring more into the fold.

"Response has been excellent," says Ann McClure, PLCAA's executive vice president.

"Many LCOs are responding favorably to the change in dues. The association hopes this means PLCAA will have far broader national representation."

PLCAA adjusted its dues to encourage more companies—large and small—to come aboard. More than 10 percent of renewing members paid their dues early this year, reports PLCAA, encouraged by an early payment discount. □

# EVENTS

## JUNE

**12-16: AAN Annual Convention and Nursery Industry Exposition**, Nashville, Tenn. Contact: AAN headquarters, 1250 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 789-2900.

**17-20: "The Technical Arborist."** San Francisco, Calif. Contact: The Arbor Day Institute, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410; (402) 474-5655.

**18-19: Jacklin Seed Company Discovery Tour**, Post Falls, Idaho. Contact: Jacklin Seed Co, West 5300 Riverbend Ave., Post Falls, ID 83854; (208) 773-7581.

**19-22: National Rails-to-Trails Conference**, Baltimore, Md. Contact: National Office, 1400 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 797-5400.

**20: Professional Grounds Management Society**, facilities management Seminar, Long Beach (Calif.) State

University. Contact: PGMS, 10402 Ridgland Rd., Suite 4, Cockeysville, Md 21030; (301) 667-1833.

**20-21: "Media, Fertility and Water Quality Management" seminar.** Contact: The Ball Institute, (708) 231-3600.

**25-26: "Diagnosing, Managing and Complying with Regulations,"** applied to insect and disease control. Fee of \$500. Contact: The Ball Institute, (708) 231-3600.

**26-27: Cornell University Field Day**, Ithaca, N.Y. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association, (800) 873-8873.

**27: "A Look at California Irrigation: Water Management for the 1990s and Beyond,"** UCLA Riverside campus. Contact: Hartley Bennett, (602) 684-7308.

## JULY

**1: "Japanese Landscape**

**Architecture."** Contact: UCLA Extension Service, (213) 825-9414.

**10-12: Environmental Regulation Course**, Atlanta, Ga. (Info on the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Superfund, Right-to-Know, OSHA.) Contact: (800) 831-8333.

**11-13: CLCA Summer Tri-Board Meeting.** Contact: Micheyl Barnett, California Landscape Contractors Assn., (916) 448-2522.

**11-15: American Association of Nurserymen Annual Meeting**, Orlando, Fla. Contact: AAN, 1250 I St., Washington, DC 20005.

**13: Equipment Field Day**, Brookville, Md. Contact: Mike O'Hare, Maryland Seeding Assn., (301) 249-2008; John Lanigan, (301) 795-5980.

**14-16: Mid-Atlantic Nurserymen's Trade Show, Baltimore.** Contact: P.O. Box 314, Perry Hall, MD 22128. □

## Olathe TURF CARE EQUIPMENT

### Field Proven Olathe Equipment For The Turf Care Professional!

Field-proven Olathe attachments for Toro GM tractors have been helping turf and grounds maintenance professionals maintain turf areas for over 7 years!

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PTO-driven attachment to Toro GM 200 & 300 series tractors that delivers a hurricane velocity blast of air to blow clippings, leaves, sand and other debris from sidewalks, fairways, and hard-to-reach areas.

#### Model 82 Aerator/Seeder

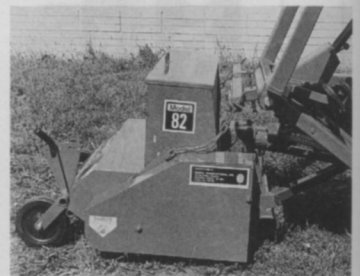
PTO-driven attachment to the GM 300 series tractor that aerifies, thatches and slit seeds at the same time. 30" swath on 3" centers with adjustable blade depth and seed flow.

#### Model 826 Polymer Planter

PTO-driven attachment to the GM 300 series tractor. It plants water-absorbing polymer to reduce amount and frequency of watering. 30" swath on 6" centers. Approx. 75 lb. hopper capacity.



Model 67



Model 82



Model 826

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Circle No. 124 on Reader Inquiry Card

## New aerification gear hits the market

From Turf-Tec International comes a new aerification attachment that the company says allows for deep aerifying on greens without disturbing the putting surface.

The Verti-Groove machine closes six-inch deep grooves on greens after soil has been removed. Turf-Tec says



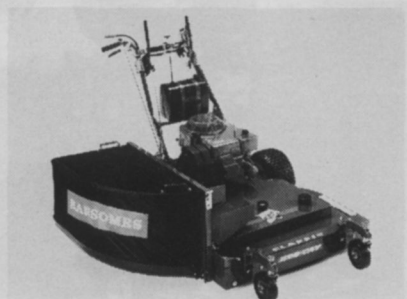
the aerifier has been fully tested and routine aerifying takes less time than standard methods now in use.

**Circle No. 191 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## Economic midsize mower is steady workhorse

Ransomes announces its Bob-Cat Mid-Size Classic walk-behind is now available to commercial landscapers and LCOs who seek a low fuel consumption model at an affordable price.

The walk-behind features a 12.5 hp engine, 11- to 15-acre eight-hour mowing capability and a good selection of grass catcher options. Ransomes says the mower is of welded steel construction and is equipped with operator presence controls.

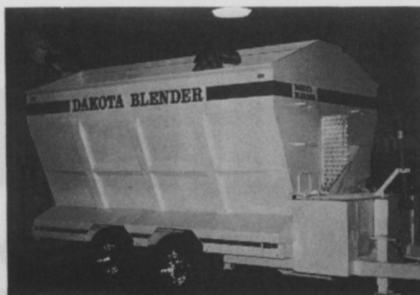


**Circle No. 192 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## High performance blender is portable, affordable

Pioneer Peat and Dakota Blenders introduces the Model 2200 soil blender that the company says is specifically designed for golf course contractors.

The blender has a 200 tons per hour output, is priced about a third less than other competing models, and is easily towed by a pickup truck.



Equipped with a mechanical drive, the unit has a built-in stacking conveyor.

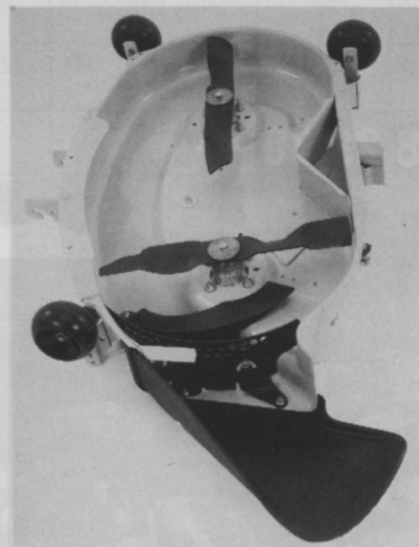
A special limited introductory price and testing kits are available.

**Circle No. 193 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## Mulching attachment adjusts to conditions

From John Deere comes the Tricycler mulching attachment that the company says can perform recycling and mulching throughout the season.

The adjustable Tricycler is equipped with special mulching blades (in 30- and 36-inch decks) and variable adjustment heights for different con-



ditions. A deflector ramp also re-directs clippings for re-cutting.

Mulching leaves under dry conditions includes pulverizing the material into tiny bits which are then blown back into the lawn. Adjustments also allow for other settings to respond to lawn conditions.

**Circle No. 194 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## New equipment cleaner cuts through grime

From Kalo, Inc. comes Tank Kleen, a cleaner versatile enough to remove dirt, grime, grease and pesticide and fertilizer residues.

Kalo says Tank Kleen also helps

neutralize acid-based pesticides which can lessen equipment corrosion and is effective against spray mixture contamination and plugged up pumps and nozzles. Quart and gal-



lon size containers are available.  
**Circle No. 200 on Reader Inquiry Card**

## EXPO from page 12

of the expo's gross profits, up to \$400,000 or 54% over \$450,000. ALCA's share will be 25.3% for the lesser amount, sliding down to 24.0% for the higher amount. The only organization to receive a higher percentage as gross profits increase is the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS), which goes from 19.7% to 22.0%.

"The discussions have been spirited," said Andrews. "The turning point was when the organizations agreed to appoint three principles to discuss the agreement, instead of working through committees. We hit it off right away, and could talk about some of the issues that had to be talked about."

With the agreement's official signing, plans can now go forward with having the 1992 show at the Indianapolis (Ind.) Convention Center. Andrews said that the 1992 equipment demo area will be held in the infield at the Indianapolis 500 racetrack. □