

coalition (green industry, pest control, agriculture) that wants to change that.

In fact, only Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Minnesota and Louisiana specifically address the question of smaller political bodies within their boundaries making pesticide law, apart from federal and state regulations. Generally speaking, towns, counties, etc. within these states cannot (the lines get kind of fuzzy on some issues) enact separate pesticide legislation.

Elsewhere, including Indiana, any local government seemingly can appoint itself as a pesticide regulator.

Andrews, in-coming president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, is one voice in this coalition seeking to convince Indiana legislators to pass a state law to keep local governments from becoming pesticide "policemen."

Adds Steve Biggers, golf course superintendent at Highland Country Club, Indianapolis: "We don't need over-reaction by any communities to pesticides. Nobody's going to benefit from communities passing pesticide laws in knee-jerk fashion."

The coalition, meeting twice by late summer, is moving deliberately. Still, it

hopes to line up legislative sponsors by year's end and bring the matter before state lawmakers early in 1992.

Andrews' application company, The Greenskeeper, operates in six central Indiana counties. He says a proliferation of local pesticide laws would be "disastrous."

An explosion of communities with different pesticide use laws could even threaten Indiana's present statewide regulatory system, a system Andrews describes as knowledgeable and progressive.

Indeed, representatives from the Office of the Indiana State Chemists have attended coalition meetings.

"They've invited us and included us in their meetings because we're the people who regulate pesticide use," says Dave Scott, a pesticide regulator based at Purdue University. "They obviously want to know what our position is in respect to pesticide laws."

Apart from convincing state lawmakers that the local meddling in pesticide laws is not wise, coalition members seek to convince government officials (and the public) that, as professional applicators, they're taking steps to safeguard the public.

Many lawn and landscape firms began

posting chemical applications before the matter even became an issue in their communities.

And now, posting, it seems, is becoming commonplace on golf courses within Indiana, too.

Members of each of the state's four golf course superintendents associations support a plan to post on the 1st and 10th tees on days when chemicals are used on their courses. Also, a sign in each pro shop will advise golfers that they can obtain information concerning chemical use on the course from the course superintendent.

Although Indiana's coalition is broad based and includes support from Indiana's strong agricultural lobby, members are uncertain just how much the state will restrict local pesticide regulation—if at all.

"There are two ways to approach pre-emption," says Andrews. "The state can outlaw local political bodies from legislating pesticide regulations. Or it can permit them to, but only with guidance from the lead regulatory agency in the state."

Adds Biggers, "we don't think it's realistic that we're going to get total preemption."

—Ron Hall

Compromise: the key in New Jersey

Try to influence local legislators at an early stage, rather than after the fact.

■ This past summer, one of David Sandler's Lawn-A-Mat customers told him of the borough's plans to toughen up the notification requirements in Fair Lawn, N.J. Sandler acted fast.

"I contacted the borough leaders and let them know I wanted to be apprised of the developments.

"Initially," recalls Sandler, "they would not give us any information, but they released information to the newspapers. Rumors and mis-information followed, but they wouldn't let (applicators) in on what was happening."

Sandler persisted, and soon he and two other landscapers were able to arrange a meeting with borough officials.



Sandler: rumors run rampant

it was kind of insane. Over the course of about a year, we met three or four times in group sessions, phone calls. Ultimately, the ordinance that was adopted was one we could live with."

Ultimately, says Sandler, ordinances become anti-competitive.

"Dealing with a patchquilt of local regulations is a nightmare we anticipate, though I think New Jersey has a statute which would encourage them to follow state guidelines."

"Initially," Sandler recalls, "the borough had wanted 100 percent pre-notification of everyone within 800 feet."

"We let our side be heard, and we kept the discourse on a civil level, even though we thought

As a responsible businessman, Sandler rolls with the punches.

"People are being affected by something they didn't want or need, regardless of what we consider the risk," says Sandler, who thinks neighbors are entitled to be pre-notified and are entitled to reasonable protection so that they won't be exposed.

Sandler advises company managers to stay informed. At the first hint of legislative activity, establish contact with the legislators, and let them know you'd like to be kept abreast of legislative developments.

Such activity represents a time commitment, "even though it means that after a 12-hour day you go to a work session with the borough officials in the evening," admits Sandler. "Someone has to make the effort to go to one of those work sessions, if you want to have any influence on the ultimate legislation.

"You're better off to have an influence at an early stage than to try to deal with it after the fact," Sandler advises. "If you stick your head in the sand, (the ordinance) is not going to disappear."

—Terry McIver