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Michigan readies new pesticide regs

LANSING, Mich.—Attention landscape and turf managers in Michigan. You'll probably work under a more comprehensive set of pesticide laws next season.

Public hearings on Regulation 637, the state's proposed new Pesticide Control Act, should begin by the end of 1991. The state legislature could vote on the measure early in 1992.

Some of the provisions in 637 that will affect professional pesticide users include:

- Registry of sensitive individuals. A Michigan resident will need a doctor's verification to get on the list. Each request will be reviewed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture toxicologist.

The Registry will be published annually and mailed to all licensed applicators. People on the list are to be pre-notified by a hand-delivered letter or by phone at least 24 hours in advance of an application.

- All professional applica-

tors must have a system in place to contain any and all pesticide spills during loading, mixing and all water from washing operations.

- Commercial pesticide applications will be posted.

- Professional applicators will provide customers with a "risk/benefit" statement at the time of, or immediately after, applications. The Department of Agriculture is drafting model language.

Regulation 637 is the handiwork of a work group of pesticide user groups, activist organizations and government agencies. Tim Doppel, president of Atwood Lawn-care, Inc. in Sterling Heights, was a member of the group.

He describes the proposed act as a "major overhaul of the pesticide control act in Michigan."

Complying with 637's pesticide mixing, loading and rinse water requirements will probably be the most costly for turf applicators, he believes.

Check for reputable designer

CHICAGO—Have you ever worked with a "golf course designer" who turned out to be totally unqualified to design anything?

Next time, says Michael Bonallack, check to see if the person is a member of a reputable, professional association.

"Many people have set themselves up as golf course architects without any form of qualification, apart from—in some cases—having been good golfers," says Bonallack,

secretary of the Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Bonallack is the 1991 recipient of the Donald Ross Award, presented annually by the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Bonallack believes golf courses should be scenic, and not too difficult for the everyday player. The best courses, says Bonallack are those that make the player think.

"The distinctiveness of holes and courses is part of what makes golf great," says Bonallack. "Unlike other sports grounds, every golf course is different and has its own special attractions which can leave a lasting image on the mind."