

HOT TOPICS

Pesticide regulation 'partnership' lauded

WASHINGTON—H.R. 3850 is the "Federal and State Pesticide Regulation Partnership Act of 1991." If passed, it would prohibit local regulation of pesticides.

Congressmen Charles Hatcher (D-Ga.) and Ron Marlenee (R-Mont.) introduced the bill to the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 22. By month's end, 28 other members of the House Agriculture Committee had also signed on.

The bill is supported by most segments of the green industry, specifically by The Coalition for Sensible Pesticide Policy, a group of almost 160 state, regional and national trade associations whose members support uniformity of pesticide regulation.

Notes Warren Stickle, president of the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association (CPDA):

"Cong. Hatcher and the other sponsors have demonstrated their commitment to

securing a uniform system of pesticide regulation which will insure that the American public continues to enjoy the benefits of tested and effective pesticide products.

"This legislation will offer protection against the crippling consequences which would ensue if a patchwork of confusing and often conflicting pesticide regulations is allowed to proliferate unchecked nationwide."

Stickle notes that H.R. 3850 addresses the June, 1991 Supreme Court decision in the case of *Wisconsin Public Intervenor v. Mortier*.

Allen James is executive director for Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), which also supports H.R. 3850. He tells LM readers: "Congress has adjourned until Jan. 20, (so) you may wish to contact your congressman now to urge action on this bill."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN CONTROVERSY

1981

Town of Casey, Wisc. prohibits pesticide use on public lands and highways

1984

Casey modifies its law to include private lands open to public use, and aerial applications

1988

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voids Casey law

1990

Circuit Court of Appeals decision upheld by Wisconsin Supreme Court

1991

APRIL: U.S. Supreme Court hears *Wisconsin Public Intervenor vs. Mortier*

MAY: Green industry interests campaign in Washington, D.C. for practical pesticide regulations before a Senate subcommittee

JUNE: U.S. Supreme Court overturns Wisconsin decision; rules localities can regulate pesticides

Texas homeowners to hear ET reports

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—Tune into the TV weather report in certain Texas cities this summer and jot down today's ET as you review the likelihood of the next rain.

ET? What the devil is that?

ET is short for evapotranspiration, the combined loss of water by evaporation from the soil surface and by transpiration from plants. In this case we're talking about turfgrass plants.

Texas A&M turfgrass expert Dr. William Knoop thinks many homeowners will be glad to get a daily ET report because it will

help them know when to water their lawns.

The daily ET report will be part of the Texas extension service's experimental Water Smart program.

"We feel most people overwater their lawns," says Knoop. "A lot of the folks in Texas have moved down from the North and don't understand bermudagrass. They tend to water it like Kentucky bluegrass."

The Water Smart program follows in the footsteps and complements Knoop's and the extension service's enormously successful "Don't Bag It" program to dis-

courage homeowners from bagging and dumping grass clippings into community landfills.

In 1991, more than 100 Texas cities participated in "Don't Bag It." And, with grants exceeding \$100,000, Knoop says "there's not going to be a town in Texas that doesn't learn about 'Don't Bag It.'"

Texas may be big, real big, but the state also has over 800 extension agents scattered among its 252 counties. Even so, educating the public about ET may not be as easy as convincing it that landfills are no place for grass and leaves.

ELSEWHERE

**Students look
at chemicals,
page 52**

**Unwatered lawns
result in fires,
page 52**

**Group certifies
hort pros,
page 55**

**Too much
tall fescue,
page 55**