

LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

White Paper to result from pesticide summit

A day-and-a-half of talk finds industry and critics agreeing on some of the broader aspects of pesticide use.

■ It would be hard to assemble 27 people with more disparate viewpoints on lawn care chemicals. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did in a two-day, mid-May talkfest in Annapolis, Md.

Represented in the group were industry (applicators, golf course and suppliers), trade organizations, government officials, anti-chemical activists and regulators.

It's called the Lawn Care Pesticide Advisory Committee (LCPAC), and the weight of its opinion is the heart of a "White Paper" which should be ready sometime this month. The paper will be distributed to LCPAC members. Then, apparently, it will be given to state regulators who, if they elect, can use it as a baseline of sorts for future lawn care regulation. The White Paper will also contain views of those who disagree with majority opinions.

This was the LCPAC's first chartered meeting. (It first met by invitation only this past February.)

The May meeting dealt with posting/notification, registries, lawn care advertising, and education and training.

Members agreed on some of the broader lawn care issues, disagreed on most others.

Posting and Notification—Some LCPAC members, including several pro-lawn, leaned toward a strong national standard, negating the need for local regulations. Others favored state primacy, while Jay Feldman, National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, argued vehemently against denying local jurisdictions the ability to make their own pesticide laws.

Most at the meeting seemed to feel that homeowners should post too.

Registries—Almost to the person the LCPAC felt that registries should be open and not require medical certification of those who claim to be chemically sensitive. But when the pre-application notification was discussed, the group fragmented on specifics.

Advertising—Pro-industry members of the LCPAC found themselves on the defensive through much of this discussion, particularly when one committee member read aloud a letter from a prominent lawn care company to a customer. The LCPAC member described the letter as an example of an industry member trying to mislead a customer on pesticide safety. This demonstration created some discussion, but little heat.

LCPAC then learned that the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) had prepared a new pub-

lication (see related story) outlining the statements and claims application companies can make in support of their services.

Training/Education—Shiela Daar, Bio-Integral Resource Center, directed much of this discussion toward the need for more training of Integrated Pest Management techniques. Others agreed that more training opportunities are needed, but nothing solid arose from the discussion.

A third LCPAC meeting is set for the fall when many of the same members will sit down to talk about pesticide labeling issues, exposure methodologies and the benefits of lawn care.

PREVAILING ATTITUDES OF THE LAWN CARE PESTICIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

	YES	NO	DIVIDED
Local regulation			✓
Homeowner posting			✓
Medical cert. for registries		✓	
Pre-notification			✓
Advertising legislation			✓
More training	✓		

EPA's Kim promised an industry grade card (a spectator's wry observation, not Kim's) at the fall meeting. Kim said he should have data from the unannounced inspections of lawn care companies being undertaken this summer—10 surprise inspections in each state.

—Ron Hall

ELSEWHERE

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to say to clients,
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Dormant Lieberman bill gets facelift; readied for 1993?

■ Summer 1992 on Capitol Hill is fading. Federal legislative action aimed at lawn/landscape chemicals appears unlikely in spite of late-spring revisions to S. 849, the lawn care notification bill introduced by Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) in 1991.

Sarah Walzer, of Lieberman's office, tells LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT that subcommittee members will try to have a mark-up of the bill this summer.

"They'll be marking up something that isn't going anywhere this summer anyway," a D.C. insider with close ties to the specialty chemical industry says. "For 1993, who knows?"

Revisions of S. 849:

- 1) **Applicators will notify** all abutting neighbors, in writing, of the first application each year at a particular site. Thereafter, the applicator would only be required to notify those who have placed themselves on the registry.
- 2) **Applicators will notify** occupants of the application site, neighbors on abutting property, and anyone on the chemically sensitive registry within 800 yards.
- 3) **No requirement** for advance notice of indoor applications, except to parents who have requested such notice in schools (notified by schools, not applicator). The bill covers only indoor applications to public buildings or multi-occupancy buildings.
- 4) **All applicators**, including homeowners, must post chemical lawn applications. The packaging of consumer chemicals will explain the sign posting duties and include the necessary signs. Or they'll be available in stores which sell the products.
- 5) **Gone is the requirement** to post a sign 72 hours prior to a chemical application.
- 6) **Applicators will mark** indoor applications with signs at each entrance to the building, and to mark outdoor applications with signs around the perimeter of the property, at each entrance to the property, and at each specific area of application on the property.
- 7) **Schools below college level** and daycare facilities must establish a registry of parents who want notice, offer parents the opportunity to register, and notify registered parents 72 hours prior to applications. Applicators would give schools information about the products they'll be using, then the schools can inform any parents requesting information.
- 8) **In large applications**—those requiring notice to 30 people or more—the applicator may notify people in any reasonable manner such as radio or newspaper advertisements, or sign posting in the area.



—R.H.

New industry brochure outlines just what an LCO can tell a client

■ In the brave new world of the 1990s, government seemingly will not only dictate what lawn application companies can do, but what they can say.

The process is well underway. For example, no longer can a lawn application company describe its service (either in writing or in conversation) as "safe", "non-toxic", "EPA-approved". These are dangerous words. These are just three of several phrases likely to get a lawn care company in trouble with regulatory officials.

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) lays out the new *politically correct* language of the lawn application industry in its brochure *What You Should Know About Lawn Care Products and Services*. The publication, presented as a series

of questions and answers, serves as both guide for lawn care marketers, and as a handout to lawn care customers, says Tom Delaney, PLCAA government affairs liaison.

In effect, it outlines what an application company can tell a client.

The brochure represents months of collaboration between PLCAA and federal agencies, especially the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both agencies have been critical the marketing of some lawn care companies, specifically relating to the safety of pesticides.

What You Should Know was written in behalf of PLCAA and the industry by Hal Zeve, Lawn Doctor, Matawan, NJ. Lawn Doctor supplied the brochure to their dealers earlier this spring. PLCAA's 1,000 members learned of the publication in the association's newsletter.

Any LCOs wanting a sample copy of the brochure should write to PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Compost pile shouldn't be a garbage disposal

■ Not all natural material belongs in a compost pile.

Dave Williams, a horticulture specialist with the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, advises against putting fatty food wastes such as meat or bones into a compost pile. They attract rodents, raccoons, flies and other pests.

Cat and dog manures aren't good com-

post material either. They contain pathogens which can survive the composting process and spread disease to plants where the compost is used, says Williams. Nor is it a good idea to try to compost diseased plant material or plants suffering severe insect infestation either.

Not For Compost Pile—butter, bone, pet manure, cheese, chicken, fish scraps,

lard, mayonnaise, meat, milk, oils, peanut butter, salad dressing, sour cream, vegetable oil.

Can Be Used In Compost Pile—aquatic weeds, bread, coffee grounds, egg shells, evergreen needles, fruit, fruit peels and rinds, garden wastes, grass clippings, leaves, paper, sawdust, straw, sod, tea leaves, vegetables, wood ash, wood chips.

Ways to reduce deer tick habitat

■ Lyme disease is a serious health problem in some areas of the country. It's also the most common tickborne disease in the United States.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria spread from one host to another by the deer tick.

Brian Bret, Ph. D., says the control of Lyme disease provides "an ideal opportunity" for an integrated pest management approach. He says control methods must include mechanical, physical and chemical methods aimed at deer ticks and their hosts.

Reduce the risk—Here, as printed in *Hole Notes*, a publication of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's Association, are the steps Bret outlines, for making property less desirable tick habitat:

- ✓ Keep lawns mowed.
- ✓ Keep weeds cleared and shrubs trimmed.
- ✓ Clean up leaf piles and organic debris and do not allow it to accumulate.
- ✓ Move wood piles away from the house and play areas.
- ✓ Inspect the house for possible entry sites for rodents.
- ✓ Move bird feeders away from living or play areas.

Tick lifecycle—The deer tick has a two-year lifecycle. It goes through four life stages—egg, larvae, nymph, and adult.

In late spring, early summer the female adult deer ticks drop off their hosts and lay eggs on the ground.

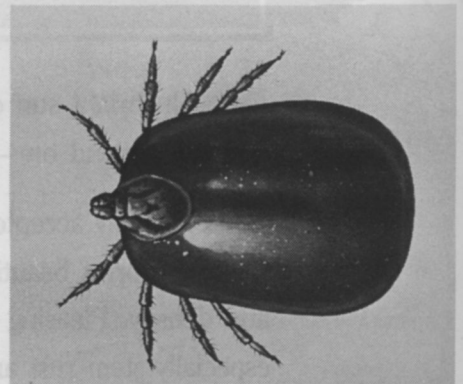
Soon after hatching, the six-legged larvae, mostly in leaf litter and in vegetation on the ground, find a host, often a white-footed mouse. The larvae pick up the Lyme disease spirochete from infected hosts, usually mice.

The larvae feed two or three days on the host, then drop off on the ground where it overwinters. The next spring, it molts into an eight-legged nymph.

By early or midsummer, the population of the nymphs peak. They climb grasses and weeds. This is when they're most likely to attach themselves to humans or pets. They feed on the host for a couple of days before dropping to the ground. By early fall, nymphs are molting into adults.

Adult ticks climb shrubs, weeds and tall grasses and attach themselves to humans, dogs, deer, etc. Again, they gorge themselves for a few days. And, again, they drop off and overwinter, only to start the cycle again in the spring by laying eggs.

The Lyme disease bacteria can be spread by either the deer tick nymph or adult.



The female tick engorges with blood to ensure the subsequent laying of eggs. Eggs are laid in the spring.

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