

# HOT TOPICS

## Green industry faces uphill battle in Washington, AAN official says

**'The more Congress does, the more likely it'll be doing it to you.'**

**OXFORD, Ohio**—Ben Bolusky of the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) thinks that the green industry has its hands full in the coming months.

"We have a lot of positive momentum in Washington, but we may run out of time this election year," Bolusky told members of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) and the Midwest Association of Physical Plant Administrators (MAPPA) here last month.

"The reality is, we may need to start all over in January with a whole new Congress," Bolusky pointed out that at least 71 members of Congress are retiring and—given the current unrest of American voters—many more incumbents could be voted out in November.

"The green industry will have a big re-education effort come January," he noted.

According to Bolusky, 110 cities and counties have already imposed their own pesticide application laws, following the *Wisconsin Public Intervenor v. Mortier* Supreme Court decision last summer.

"The potential for chaos is mind-boggling," Bolusky said. "Our pesticide regulatory system is in jeopardy if regulations are fueled by emotion. Few localities are qualified to regulate pesticides."

He said H.R. 3850 approved by the House Agricultural Subcommittee last

month would keep pesticide regulation at the federal and state levels: "The house bill has attracted 93 co-sponsors, and 23 senators have added their names to the Senate version (S. 2085) of the bill."

Another proposed pesticide bill, being readied by Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) has been amended. The re-draft, if passed, would:

**1)** Force individual states to establish a registry of pesticide-sensitive individuals.

**2)** Force pesticide applicators to notify everyone on the list (within 800 yards), plus immediate neighbors, of the season's first pesticide application.

**3)** Force posted notices three days before, remaining three days after, pesticide applications.

**4)** Would apply to all pesticide applications, including those done by homeowners. Stores where pesticides are sold would also sell appropriate signage.

In addition, Bolusky noted, "The EPA's Lawn Care Advisory Committee is considering an *à la carte* menu of pesticide regulations."

Not all the news from Washington is bad, Bolusky admitted. Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) has introduced S. 2319, which

will require an economic impact analysis on subsequent federal legislation. Such a bill could affect proposed pesticide regulations. "He's seeking some degree of accountability," Bolusky said.

Also, President George Bush has penciled \$31 million for urban tree plantings into his 1993 budget request. This is about 15 times what was spent in 1992, much of which will go to landscapers who are contracted to plant trees in urban areas.

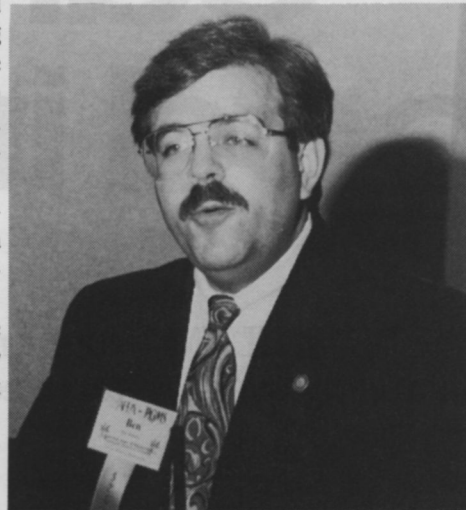
The AAN executive made his remarks as part of a keynote at the Midwest Grounds

Management Conference sponsored by MAPPA and PGMS at Miami University.

Bolusky concluded that he is sometimes frustrated by "the seemingly never-ending gridlock and grandstanding in Congress...but I happen to believe in the system."

"The green industry is perfectly poised to be the environment's white knight in shining armor in the '90s. Despite the troubles, I'm optimistic about the future of our industry."

—Jerry Roche



**Bolusky: Lieberman bill is 'outlandish'**

### ELSEWHERE

**Lawn Institute changes around, p. 61**

**Commercial focus at Expo, p. 61**

**More research on herbicides, p. 61**

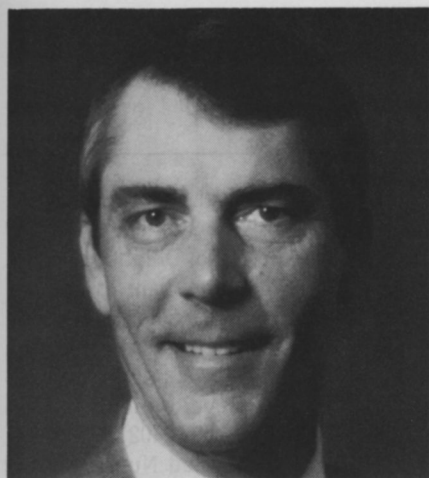
## Lawn Institute changes address, executive dir.

**MARIETTA, Ga.**—New address for the administrative headquarters of the Lawn Institute is 1509 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite 190, Marietta, GA 30062. Phone number is (404) 977-5492 and fax is (404) 977-8205.

Taking over as executive director from Dr. Eliot Roberts, who recently retired, is James R. Brooks. Brooks, 52, was formerly executive vice-president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. He was also employed by LANDSCAPE

MANAGEMENT (then *Weeds Trees & Turf*) magazine and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The Lawn Institute was formed in 1955 as a non-profit corporation to assist in and encourage through research and public education the improvement of lawns and sports turf. Brooks was preceded by Dr. Roberts (1982-1992) and the late Dr. Robert Schery (1955-1982).



James R. Brooks, new at Lawn Institute

## Equipment Expo revs its engines for industry pros

**LOUISVILLE, KY.**—Business seminars and equipment demos highlight the International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo, here July 26-28.

Nearly 550 manufacturers and suppliers are exhibiting at this year's Expo, along with an estimated 17,000 green industry professionals from the U.S. and 60 countries world-wide.

The Expo's outdoor demonstration area will again be in full swing. Prospective buyers can browse the expansive outdoor demonstration area and ride, weed-whip, chip, mow and aerate to their hearts' content, using the latest in landscape management and lawn care industry equipment.

Show organizers say the growth of the Expo has been rapid and substantial, with great gains in the number of commercial

end-users. In 1991, the percentage of dealers who carry commercial products increased 73 percent. The number of landscapers and cutters from across the U.S. increased 57 percent.

The North American Equipment Dealers Association will sponsor a 10,000-sq. ft. "Model Store," which will emphasize safety and "environmentally safe" products. There will also be what is described as a state-of-the-art, working service shop.

The seminar schedule features:

- green industry consultant Charles Vander Kooi, speaking on "Bidding with Confidence."

- Len Hays on "Expanding your Commercial Business."

Of special interest is the raffle of a Chevy S-10 Tahoe 4-door Blazer, sponsored by *Organic Gardening* magazine.

For more information, contact Andry Montgomery & Assoc., 6100 Dutchman's Lane, 6th floor, Louisville, KY, 40205, or call (800) 558-8767.

## Institute examines herbicides

**NEW YORK**—What, use less herbicides and nitrogen on turfgrass? This may be possible if research at the Weizmann Institute of Israel pays off.

Institute scientists have developed an approach that could dramatically reduce the amount of herbicide needed to kill weeds.

When metal-binding chelators are applied simultaneously with a herbicide, the resulting synergy knocks out a weed's defenses against the herbicide. Greenhouse experiments indicate that this mixture could prevent weed growth with only 1/4 to 1/2 as much herbicide as usual. Moreover, the approach is likely to delay

the appearance of herbicide resistance by five to 15 years, the institute says.

Research projects also focus on genes that increase the efficiency of a plant's nitrogen uptake and plants that produce their own nitrogenous fertilizers. Some of these lines use 65 percent or more of the available nitrogen source, as compared to the usual 50 percent rate.

Other Weizmann research is focusing on fungi to kill weeds and eliminating cross-resistance to herbicides, making them more efficient.

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