

# HOT TOPICS

## EPA, 2,4-D Task Force agree on new label and exposure reduction effort

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. EPA and the 2,4-D Task Force recently agreed on new exposure-reduction language on the herbicide 2,4-D product labels.

The following measures will appear on the labels of 2,4-D turf products formulated after June 15, 1994, according to the negotiated settlement:

- Mixers/loaders/applicators must wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks. Users of turf liquid products with "Warning" or "Danger" signal words must wear face shield or safety glasses.

- Users of turf liquid amine products must wear rubber gloves, and users of non-amine formulations must wear chemical-resistant gloves.

- Persons who pour from open containers of over 1 gallon (and less than 5 gallons) must wear overalls or chemical-resistant aprons.

- "Probe and pump" systems must be used to transfer the contents of containers 5 gallons or more in capacity.

- Maximum turfgrass application rates of 2 lbs./acre/application.

- Maximum of two broadcast applications per year per turfgrass site.

Further, the label will state that people (other than the applicator) or pets are not allowed on 2,4-D-treated turfgrass areas until sprays have dried or dusts have settled. The 2,4-D Task Force also agreed to develop a product education program for both professional and do-it-yourself users to further reduce human exposure. "We (2,4-D Task Force) will be testing to see if the message is getting through and whether it's being understood," says Pam Jones, a spokesperson for the task force. (The 2,4-D Task Force is composed of companies that manufacture and formu-

late 2,4-D.) The EPA also gave the 2,4-D Task Force members more time for required rodent carcinogenicity studies.

The EPA is convening, early in 1993, a 10-member panel of experts to review epidemiological data on 2,4-D. The panel will be "an advisory panel for the comprehensive evaluation of the carcinogenicity of 2,4-D," EPA says.

"The Agency (EPA) is trying to make a determination about whether the compound should go into special review and it intends to use that review to help it make that judgement," says Gary Hamlin, a spokesman for DowElanco, a task force member. Several farm worker studies have suggested a link between long-term 2,4-D use and a relatively rare form of cancer. These findings have not been corroborated by other evidence, claims the task force.

—Ron Hall

## PLCAA, Univ. of Georgia plan home-study course

**MARIETTA, Ga.**—The Professional Lawn Care Association (PLCAA) and the University of Georgia are planning a home-study course on turfgrass care and management, to be available in early 1993.

The course is authored by Dr. Keith Karnok, professor of agronomy, and contains approximately 200 study hours of material. Topics are:

- turfgrass growth, development and establishment;
- fertilization, irrigation and mowing;
- weed/insect/disease control;
- control product regulations; and
- soil types.

A portion of the course will cover management practices used for alleviating

environmental stress, such as high and low temperatures, drought, and shade.

The course will also include discussions concerning pesticide use, regulations and safety as well as integrated pest management. Lawn care technicians who complete the course will be recognized as Certified Turfgrass Professionals by the PLCAA.

Karnok says the program allows LCOs to learn the technical aspects of turfgrass management without being restricted to a classroom.

"Along with the experience of working in the lawn care field, this course will provide valuable training on topics of real importance in today's industry," Karnok

says.

Ann McClure, PLCAA's executive vice president, thinks the diversity of topics is what makes the course special.

"The correspondence course can take people beyond the basic technician level toward being more knowledgeable, well-rounded turfgrass professionals," says McClure. "PLCAA believes this will mean a higher quality of service to the public."

PLCAA's other educational project is a joint venture with Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE): a three-part technician video program, which complements the University of Maryland's EPA-funded, six-part video series, "Using Pesticides Safely."

PLCAA has been advised by the EPA's certification and training branch and will continue to seek its input as the program progresses.

—Terry McIver

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## 105 million trees planted in U.S. in 1991

**WASHINGTON**—One hundred five million landscape trees were sold for planting between Oct. 1, 1990 and Sept. 31, 1991, according to a survey of the nation's largest tree growers.

"The U.S. Landscape Tree Planting Survey," sponsored by the American

Association of Nurserymen, on a U.S.D.A. Forest Service Grant, was conducted to set a baseline for measuring tree planting activity in the U.S.

"For the first time ever, we have the opportunity to measure the tree planting impact of the urban and community forestry movement that is taking hold across the country," says Dr. Fred Deneke of the U.S. Forest Service.

Deneke added that the results show the private nursery industry is "capable of pro-

### TREES SOLD IN U.S. 10/1/90 to 9/30/91

Type of tree	No. sold	%
Broadleaf and/or conif. evergreen	39,175,000	37
Deciduous shade	33,073,000	31
Deciduous flower	25,297,000	24
Fruit and/or nut	8,091,000	8

*Source: AAN*

ducing the 30 million additional trees called for U.S. cities and communities in Pres. Bush's 'America the Beautiful' initiative."

The statistics show a capability to expand production of finished trees by nearly 30 percent over three years to meet increased demand.

According to the study, 22 percent of the trees sold were through landscape contractors and an additional 4 percent were through municipalities or governments.

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## California's water bill has tight controls

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**—If you landscape in California, and have the stamina to comply with the state's new water efficient landscape ordinance, then you really belong in the business.

California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance goes into effect January 1, 1993, in all California cities and counties that do not adopt their own water efficient ordinance.

The bill is not light reading; dozens of irrigation-related definitions, qualifications and calculations are packed into 36 pages.

The bill contains provisions for new and rehabilitated landscapes, and requires estimations of total water use for an area, landscape design specifications, irrigation design plans, provisions for use of recycled water, irrigation schedules, maintenance schedules, grading design plans and soil analysis.

To obtain a copy of the ordinance, contact Marsha Prillwitz at the Water Conservation Office, 1416 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 64236-0001. (916) 653-7366.

And good luck!



## On-the-job CPR saves man's life

**LOS ANGELES**—Knowing how to perform the correct CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) procedures helped two landscape contractors save a life this past summer.

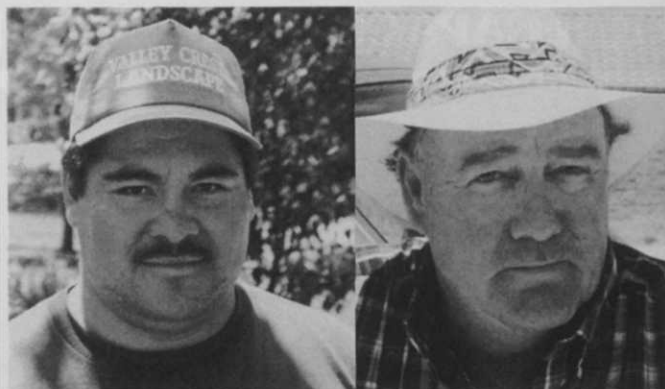
Superintendent Lloyd Lambert and foreman José Farias of Valley Crest Landscape, Calabasas, were working at Hollywood Park in Inglewood when they saw that Ed Blackwell of Moorpark had collapsed while digging postholes. Blackwell was not breathing.

They immediately started CPR procedures and continued until paramedics arrived.

As it turned out, not only did Blackwell need assistance, but so did the paramedics, whose ambulance battery had died. So Lambert and Farias then helped jump-start the vehicle so it could be on its way to Daniel Freeman Hospital with Blackwell inside.

According to the paramedics and staff in the hospital's Emergency Room, the CPR performed by the Valley Crest employees saved Blackwell's life.

Blackwell's wife Gloria wrote, in a letter to Burton Sperber of Environmental Industries (Valley Crest's parent company):



**José Farias (left) and Lloyd Lambert put their CPR training to good use by saving a life while on the job.**

"On July 2, I called Valley Crest and the receptionist informed me that it had provided CPR classes to all employees last November. Organizations such as yours that provide for the employees make it possible for the employees to provide for others. Thank you for providing these classes. Because you took the time to care, my husband is alive and recuperating today."



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## Arizona plant scientists speed up Mother Nature

**TUCSON, Ariz.**—They're speeding up Mother Nature to provide desert-adapted plants for home landscapes.

Who are "they"? Gary A. Thompson, a University of Arizona plant scientist, and Jimmy Tipton, a U of A Cooperative Extension ornamental plant specialist.

The pair is developing a system to propagate desert-hardy woody plants using tissue culture techniques. They're also converting a laboratory process into one that a commercial nursery can use.

Though tissue culture is labor-intensive, the researchers can get as many as 60 new plantlets from each miniature plant and literally millions from the original plant tip—all exactly the same.

The Mexican redbud and many other woody plants with desirable characteristics are highly variable, with dormancy periods that make life difficult for commercial nurseries, Thompson says. "You see a gorgeous plant that looks just perfect for a suburban front yard, so you collect the seed. You won't know for six or seven years whether the young tree is going to look the same—and it may not."

Tipton and Thompson are beginning to work on similar systems for mesquite, landscape jojoba, red yucca and the bird-of-paradise plants.

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