

# No time for smugness in Washington

**ORLANDO, Fla.**—Don't get too smug about the recent silence of lawn care critics, particularly in Washington D.C., warns LCO Robert Andrews.

"Historically, when do we get into trouble? When we're not under the gun," says Andrews.

Andrews, the 1993 president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), says the Republican landslide this past November heartened many LCOs, but political fortunes can change rapidly. "Two years ago (President) Clinton was on top of the world. He's down now, but don't count him out.

"If we start to mess up. If we let our guard down. If we get sloppy, the wolf will be back at the door."

Also, points out Andrews, agriculture's clout in Washington D.C. will likely con-

tinue declining. An example is the broadsides being aimed at farm subsidies.

"That big umbrella that agriculture protects us with, to a great extent, is declining," says Andrews who owns a lawn care company near Indianapolis. He made these comments at a seminar he conducted here in January on behalf of PLCAA.

—Ron Hall

## Massachusetts gets pre-emption

**SPRINGFIELD, MASS.**—At the end of the 1994 legislative year Governor William Weld signed into law preemption legislation in Massachusetts. This law gives the state exclusive authority to regulate pesticides. It goes into effect at the end of March.

The Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals along with the Associated Landscape Contractors of Mass., the Mass. Arborists Association, and the New England Pest Control Association worked for the last three years to insure passage of this bill.

## Landscape managers told to educate the public

**TWIN FALLS, Ida.**—Members of the Environmental Care Association were told by Doug Fender that they must become more proactive by sharing scientifically-based facts about the benefits of turfgrass with the public.

Fender, executive director of Turfgrass Producers International, made his comments during the organization's annual meeting here earlier this year.

He said everyone in the turfgrass industry must counter the pseudo-scientific attacks by people he termed "eco-terrorists" during his hour-long presentation.

"What does a rain forest do that a lawn doesn't also do?" Fender asked rhetorically. "Both lawns and rain forests are made up of thousands or millions of plants. The average lawn...is a forest of grass. Who knows: maybe like the hope we hold for the rain forests, the cure for many diseases may be waiting to be discovered, right under our feet."

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