

Happy New Year from all of us at LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, "The Voice of the Green Industry."

Our cover story, "Issues '98", is a look at the key legislative initiatives currently at work on the state, local and federal level. Check it out if you want to stay current.

Key issues include product testing mandates from the EPA as it relates to the Food Quality Protection Act; product labeling; posting and notification; and OSHA regulations.

Nothing is more confusing than information from the Environmental Protection Agency. Basically, testing of control products must now include a wide array of tests to determine if these already well-tested products will harm children over the course of time.

In Ohio, some cities have passed laws (the public doesn't get a vote) mandating helmets for kids on bikes. This EPA/FQPA stuff follows that line of thinking: try to eliminate every element of risk in daily life.

The makers of various pesticides must therefore jump through a variety of testing hoops in virtually no time. Useful products may be dropped by companies that can't spend the millions in reregistration.

On the posting/notification front, there's rumblings in New York about a local regulation that would set a precedent that the Professional Lawn Care Association says would put some companies out of business due to the amount of time that would be required to notify all the neighbors.

Golf courses have a variety of environmental issues on front and back burners.

Endangered species, noise reduction and water quality lead the way, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association says it will continue to monitor the proceedings.

As a Green Industry professional who would like to stay in business, you might want to consider helping with the lobbying efforts of whichever association to which you belong, and learn how these pending laws might affect the way you run your company.

Then, get ready for some changes, whenever they happen.

UNIVERSITY CLIPS

UC offers horticulture degree

Students can now earn a four-year degree in horticulture at the University of Cincinnati. The program contains a business and horticulture track, and is the only such baccalaureate program in the area, reports **Tom Smith**, academic coordinator for the program, which is offered through UC's college of Evening and Continuing Education.

Courses include environmental law; ecology; plant pathology and disease management; landscape design and entrepreneurial accounting.

Tom Fryman, adjunct professor and landscape designer with Earthscapes, Inc., teaches a Landscape Design Course. In it, students can work with realistic demands and settings.

New horticulture professionals are needed, says Smith.

"The Green Industry's for-profit enterprises like golf courses, nurseries and landscapers generate more than \$800 million in the region," explains Smith.

"The need for qualified people who can serve as leaders in both management and field positions is one of the major blocks limiting our ability to grow," says **Tom Gear**, president of T.R. Gear Landscaping.

Wait and see how big issues affect you in 1998



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