

Do they really care about kids?



Ron Hall

RON HALL
Managing Editor

The doublespeak emanating from the nation's capital concerning health risks to America's youth seems to be increasing. Consider the widely disparate actions of our legislators to reduce the health risks to youngsters from two sources—tobacco and pesticides.

This past spring Congress debated tobacco (again), and argued the wisdom of taxing cigarettes out of the economic reach of youngsters. This is logical and appropriate considering the tiny financial cost of addiction compared to the hugely expensive health problems that addiction creates.

So what does Congress do? It poses and postures, and does virtually nothing to keep youngsters from tobacco. It apparently feels that even talking about making America safer and healthier for kids is a sure thing with voters.

So, what's this got to do with the green industry? Plenty.

In August, 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The Act amends FIFRA and the Federal Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) and went through Congress like a speeding bullet.

The FQPA—one of whose cornerstones is protecting children and infants from pesticides—is a huge piece of legislation. It does no less than replace the pesticide laws we had been working under. It defines how the U.S. EPA will deal with pesticides and, consequently, with many of us. While most of the details are yet to be worked out, there are indications that the Act might be used to eliminate or reduce the use of some of our chemical products.

Contrast the rapid-fire passage of the FQPA, a complicated and problematic measure, with our legislators' contentious wrangling over youth and tobacco where the evidence of risk to youngsters is overwhelming, if not damning. **LM**

[LANDSCAPE/GROUNDS]

PAGE 2 L ▶
Expo '98 celebrates 15 years

PAGE 6 L ▶
What's next for LandCARE?

PAGE 16 L ▶
Get your field back to grass

PAGE 18 L ▶
Quick guide to pre-emergents

PAGE 22 L ▶
Proper pruning techniques

PAGE 24 L ▶
The benefits of organic recycling

Agree? Disagree? Comments? Questions? Let Ron Hall know at 440/891-2636. Fax: 440/891-2683. E-Mail: rhall@advanstar.com.



[PEOPLE & PROJECTS]

Stano nabs 'healthy' project

Stano Landscaping, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, earned the landscape contract at Waukesha Health Care, Inc.'s, Southside Clinic. The contract calls for Stano's crew to install foundation plantings around the new health clinic. More than 22 trees, 11 evergreens, 100 shrubs, plus ground cover and perennial plants will be planted at the site.

Scott Byron employee talks trucks

Thomas O'Donnell, fleet & safety manager for Scott Byron & Co., Lake Bluff, IL, addressed a national audience of truck manufacturers and suppliers at the recent Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, KY. O'Donnell, 35, spoke about buying and selling equipment, as well as maintenance and repair.