

FQPA opened industry's eyes in '98

COLUMBUS, OHIO—Widespread industry concern this past year over implementation of The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) had some positive effects, said Anne R. Leslie, a former official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This concern, expressed in letters and meetings with federal office-holders, focused on the EPA's methods for review of pesticide residues on foods, and whether these methods were fair and accurate, said



Former EPA official
Anne R. Leslie

Leslie, a speaker at the Ohio Turfgrass Conference here in December. The greatest fear by pesticide-using industries

like agriculture and turf/ornamental care is that the FQPA will result in the loss of popular chemical control products.

The climax of this concern in 1998 was a memo from Vice President Al Gore to the EPA in April. The memo instructed the EPA to:

- ▶ ensure that its decisions are made based on the best available science.
- ▶ ease the transition to new pest management strate-

gies for affected pesticide users.

▶ make the regulatory process transparent.

▶ consult with affected stakeholders.

Also, it led to the establishment of the Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) in 1998. TRAC consisted of representatives from growers, pesticide registrants, food processors, environmental groups and medical professionals.

Although uncertainty remains about FQPA's effects on the green industry, she said that the EPA is trying to make its decision making process more transparent.

While the FQPA attracted much of the attention of professional pesticide

users, Leslie reported that the EPA nevertheless registered 27 new pesticides this past year. These included 14 "reduced risk" pesticides and 13 conventional chemicals. It also approved 12 biopesticides and 2 antimicrobials, said Leslie, who retired from the EPA this past summer and now consults on IPM and pesticide issues.

Playing the awards game

For 27 years, members of the Professional Grounds Management Society have celebrated the importance of top quality landscape and grounds management through a rigorous judging system, culminating in the Professional Grounds Maintenance Awards. Grand



and honor awards are given for winners in a variety of categories — many of which our readers maintain: small residential sites, commercial properties, institutions, multi-family communities, public works and others.

To encourage industry participation in this award program and build a higher consumer awareness of the role of landscape and grounds management, *Landscape Management* has established a partnership with PGMS to become the exclusive sponsor for these awards.

As part of our sponsorship, *Landscape Management* and *Athletic Turf Maintenance & Technology* will promote the best our industry

has to offer in our magazines, on our Website (www.landscapegroup.com) and to the business and consumer press.

Entry is not limited to PGMS members. In fact, it is encouraged throughout the industry. Those who win will survive multiple rounds of judging by experienced, nonpartisan practitioners.

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award-winning landscapes is featured on page 66. Future issues of LM will include updated contest entry instructions, more award-winning landscapes, a guide on how to present your projects in the best possible light for judging and tips on how to get maximum marketing benefit from your efforts.

Updated entry guidelines will be available at www.landscapegroup.com or by contacting PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21030 or call 410/584-9754.

The first of several

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