

# industry almanac

NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Petition to put pesticide restrictions on ballot

### SPRINGFIELD, MA —

Lawn care, tree care and pest control companies in Massachusetts are closely monitoring the progress of an initiative petition aimed at restricting the use of chemical pesticides in and around schools and day-care centers.

The petition, entitled "An Act to Protect Children From Exposure to Pesticides," is being circulated by a consumer-action group known as MassPirg. Professional applicators, including the Massachusetts Lawn Care Association, say that the petition is faulty.

Proponents must gather 57,100 signatures by Dec. 1 before sending the petition to the state legislature in January. The legislature has three choices: 1) approve the peti-

tion, 2) disapprove the petition or 3) take no action.

Although a similar bill has been languishing in a legislative committee the past several years, it's unlikely the lawmakers will disapprove the petition. A legislator probably

wouldn't want to be perceived as being against anything that would promote child safety, green industry sources tell LM.

More likely the legislature would take no action, and applicators in Massachusetts are bracing for the measure to be on the November 2000 ballot.

Among other things, the

Act: requires written notification of schools employees, pupils and their parents at least two days prior to a pesticide application, requires posting in a common area of the facility and along the perimeter of the property at least two working days prior to an outdoor application and for at least 72 hours following the application, requires that

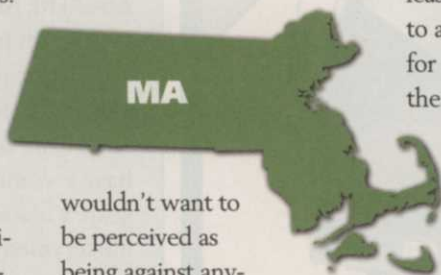
each school or day care center in the state adopt and implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan, forbids the use of any pesticides classified as known, likely or probably human carcinogens for outdoor applications and forbids the application of pesticides outdoors for aesthetic purposes.

Any person, including school personnel, who violates any of these provisions could be fined up to \$5,000 per day.

Edwin McGuire, owner/operator of The Lawn Co., South Dennis, MA, tells LM that he expects the measure to eventually end up on next fall's ballot.

"The question is: How do we work to defeat this?" he adds. "The concern is that a year from now we're going to be in a big battle or, worse yet, no battle at all."

— RON HALL



## OPEI's Dix retires, Harley joins

**Alexandria, VA —** After 27 years leading the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, President and CEO Dennis Dix has retired, effective March 31, 2000. Dix's key programs during his long tenure were the establishment of the International Outdoor Power Equipment Expo, held annually in Louisville, KY; legislative work on issues such as liability, emissions and noise; expanded member services; and purchasing OPEI's headquarters building in Alexandria.

He will be succeeded by William Harley, who will join OPEI in early January, 2000. Harley's background includes 18 years as CEO of the National

Utility Contractors Association.

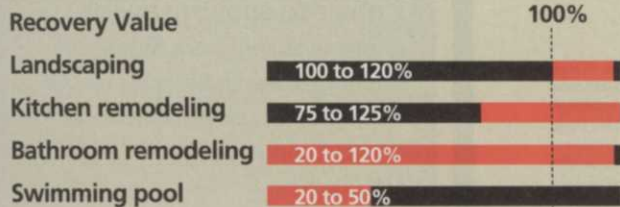


William Harley

### Did You Know?

#### Recovering landscape dollars

Landscape work appears to be a more dependable investment than a new kitchen, according to *Money* magazine. A survey of recovery value at selling time for homeowners shows landscaping recovers at least 100% of its value, and sometimes more. Here are the other results:



## Info Center

VIDEOS AND LITERATURE FOR THE GREEN INDUSTRY

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**THE HANDBOOK OF PEST MANAGEMENT**,...edited by John Ruberson, provides information on the management of crop pests, including invertebrates, pathogens and vertebrates. Available at [www.dekker.com](http://www.dekker.com), the book also includes pest management principles and techniques, current practice and future technology.

**HAND SELECTED HOLLAND BULBS**...are available from Netherland Bulb. The new, full-color catalog features pricing, photos and descriptions. To receive a catalog, call 888/508-3763.

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Circle 112

## LA schools losing the weed war

### LOS ANGELES

School officials here experimented with a heat wand — a propane-fueled rod — to kill weeds on the grounds of a former middle school this past August.

That's how desperate some officials are to find a way to fight back the weeds since the district's new policy banning the use of pesticides and herbicides on school property.

Actually, the policy, adopted in March by the Los Angeles Board of Education, phases out the use of the chemical products over the

next three years. Some schools, however, have already abandoned their use.

So far, the only proven method to control weeds in this massive district is to pull them by hand, and the district is reportedly hiring 50 additional gardeners to help with the task.

"It's an endless job," Maurice Rossini, an assistant principal at Reseda High School, told the Los Angeles Times in late August. "You start at one end of the school and by the time you're finished, they're already growing back."

## 10 nastiest invasives

### STATE COLLEGE, PA.

Invasive plants pose one of the most insidious environmental threats to the United States in the 21st Century, claims Larry Kuhns, Ph.D., Professor of Ornamental Horticulture at Penn State University.

"Compared to invasive plants and weeds, the chemical pollutants of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s will be considered an easy cleanup," he says.

#### Top 10 on Kuhns' "Least Wanted" list:

1. Tree of heaven. Huge amounts of wind-spread seeds.
2. Multiflora rose. Introduced as a wildlife cover.
3. Purple loosestrife. Invades wetlands, disturbed soils.
4. Japanese knotweed. Extensive root system.
5. Phragmites. Forms huge colonies.
6. Canada thistle. Serious problem for farm crops.
7. Poison hemlock. Not related to hemlock tree.
8. Japanese stiltgrass. Hindrance to forest regeneration.
9. Mile-a-minute vine. Can grow 6 in. in a day.
10. Autumn olive. Birds spread its seeds.

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## Preparing for the next drought

**Wilmington, DE** — The 1999 Eastern drought is over, but the green industry learned some valuable lessons, reports "The Mid Atlantic Grower." This past Aug. 5, Delaware Governor Tom Carper ordered mandatory water restrictions for much of the state. The green industry thought the restrictions unfairly targeted it. As a result, industry committees, spearheaded by the Delaware Association of Nurserymen, are developing a "drought emergency kit," with prepared letters voicing industry's concern over restrictions and names and addresses of public officials. Also, committees are working up fact sheets on water conservation and appropriate watering techniques for their clients.

## Last one out, turn off the lights

As millions prepare to celebrate the new millennium in parties and special events, several leading chemical manufacturers are planning to stop their operations on New Year's Eve as a precaution against any computer-driven accidents, say some wire reports.



The stories cite managers from DuPont, Monsanto, Rhone-Poulenc and Ashland Chemical saying they plan to halt operations temporarily during the holiday weekend. While the manufacturers say their own operations are Y2K compliant, the remote possibility of other problems from utilities or other suppliers led them to make the decision.

Since New Year's Eve falls on a Friday night, the temporary halts are not expected to cause financial or operating burdens of any significance.

## People & companies

**Jeff Carowitz** is the new vice president of marketing for **Hunter Industries**. Carowitz will direct marketing and promotional activities.



**Allentuck Landscaping Co.** has donated its landscaping services to beautify the grounds of Casa de Maryland, a nonprofit community organization committed to helping Latinos and others with many issues, including employment and training.

**Jim Torrey**, a 20-year landscaping veteran, has been named general manager of Keller Outdoor Services, an environmental services, landscaping, irrigation and nursery company.

**Contech Construction Products** announced an alliance with **Synthetic Industries** to promote and distribute Pyramat High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat in the U.S.

**Mitsubishi Fuso Truck of America** promoted **Jim McConnell** to manager, national fleet sales. McConnell brings nearly 15 years of truck sales experience to the position.

**EPIC of Wisconsin** announced the appointment of **Kristi Mirocha** to its staff as director of meeting coordination. Mirocha will research, negotiate, procure and facilitate all aspects of meeting and incentive travel programs.

**Melroe** of Fargo, ND, purchased **Erskine Manufac-**

**turing** from Wayne and Arlene Gustafson, McIntosh, Minn. The acquisition will



provide Melroe with Bobcat-branded attachments.

**Don Bollmeier** has been selected as **Redexim Charterhouse's** salesperson of the year. Bollmeier is a sales professional employed by Horizon Turf of Phoenix, AZ.



**Red Dixon** has joined **Weathermatic** as vice president of marketing.

**FertiGator** has named **Ann Palermo** chief sales officer.

She will oversee the company's sales operations as they relate to the independent sales representatives and wholesalers/distributors with which the company works.

**FMC's** specialty products business expanded and restructured its field sales force and technical service department.

**Jacklin Seed** has named **Derek Shaw** as a computer support technician. Shaw will



work in the information systems department and will work in all phases of technical support involving computer operation at Jacklin's Coeur d'Alene, Idaho headquarters.