

### Expo 99 happy with numbers

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute reported that attendance soared at Expo '99 in Louisville, KY, this past July. The number of landscapers/commercial mowers increased by 20% from 1998, equipment rental dealers grew by 11% and dealers/retailers by 3%. OPEI said that 22,982 people (not including exhibitors) attended the 1999 Expo, a 9% increase over attendance in 1998.

### Toro & Maruyama extend pact

A new agreement by Toro Co., Bloomington, MN, and Maruyama Mfg. Co., of Tokyo, Japan, extends a 1996 pact for Toro to distribute Maruyama hand-held power equipment in the United States and Canada through 2003.

[CLIPPINGS]

## EPA questions Dursban's safety

**WASHINGTON** — Despite years of use in the landscape industry, the insecticide Dursban (active ingredient: chlorpyrifos) has received low grades from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The product's reassessment, part of EPA's first round of product reviews in its implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act, makes its reregistration vulnerable unless user groups speak up, warns Tim Maniscalco, government relations manager for Down AgroSciences, based in Indianapolis.

The 60-day public comment period for the risks and benefits of chlorpyrifos began in late September, and it is during this period that Dow Agro is encouraging grounds managers, lawn care operators and landscape contractors to speak out on the product's benefits.

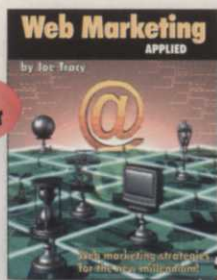
### A seat at the table

According to Maniscalco, the EPA's reassessment of Dursban "categorized the risks but didn't have input on the benefits" of the product. "That's why satisfied users need to tell the agency about the benefits for the record."

He explained "stakeholder groups" must identify themselves early in each product's reassessment process to have a place at the negotiating table when EPA moves through the process.

Maniscalco noted that chlorpyrifos has not been "singled out," but that its class — organophosphates — are perceived as "risky." "When users speak out for the benefits, they're saying, 'We're important and need to be considered too,'" he added, saying that users can get information from their Dow representatives.

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