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in professional turf and ornamentals. Curalan uses will continue after 2000 in golf course and industrial turf management areas.

## Vendex® OK for ornamentals

VALDOSTA, GA — The EPA reinstated application to ornamentals for the Vendex 50WP-T/N/O miticide label.

## Toro aiding Audubon program

RIVERSIDE, CA — Design a sprinkler, help wildlife. That's the message The Toro Company sent as it announced a program aimed at helping Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary System. For every irrigation design submitted to Toro Irrigation by Oct. 1, 2000 that employs the 570Z PRX Series spray sprinklers, Toro will donate \$100 to Audubon's Backyard Program. Designers are encouraged to submit designs. Send them to: The Toro Company, Toro/Audubon Partnership, 5825 Jasmine St., Riverside, CA 92504.

## DTN partners with ESRI

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — DTN Kavouras Weather Services, a subsidiary of Data Transmission Network Corp. (DTN), Omaha, NE, has partnered with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to provide real-time weather information in ESRI format that can be used with GIS software.

Users will be able to better calculate and communicate when and where a serious storm will impact a specific area.

[CLIPPINGS]

## PLCAA polls members on Dursban limit

According to a recent poll conducted by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), a little over half of landscape professionals say the loss of the insecticide Dursban will affect their business. Most say they haven't received any complaints from customers, and a large percentage are concerned about the future ramifications of government regulation. (See related story, page 44.)



The poll was sent to 605 regular PLCAA members and received 16% response. Here's how each member responded to the three questions asked in the poll:

- ▶ Will the eventual loss of Dursban affect your business? Yes: 55% No: 45%
- ▶ Have you experienced customer complaints, questions and confusion about the negative publicity surrounding the Dursban story? Yes: 24% No: 76%

The strongest response came with the question: How are you conducting business in the face of losing this product and potentially other products due to environmental regulations? Most members question the reasoning behind such decisions and whether the EPA is more politically than environmentally motivated. Some said they have no Plan B, but displayed resiliency by saying, "Business will go on."

The poll also revealed a discrepancy in members' knowledge of insecticides. Many feel that the loss of Dursban is a minor issue because of all the other products available. Other responses showed that some members didn't know of any alternative products.

Those who said the loss of Dursban would affect them cited a lack of other effective insecticides and possibility of lower customer satisfaction when a less effective insecticide is used. Others cited the low cost of Dursban vs. other insecticides. Those who said they weren't going to be affected argued that they hadn't used Dursban in years, or had never used it at all.

The small number of members who said they had received customer complaints blamed the news media for presenting an unbalanced story of the reasoning behind the ban. Several mentioned that the calls they got were from customers who were not really anti-Dursban, but simply concerned about the overall safety of lawn care products.

## Eco Soil, Simplot amend purchase deal

Eco Soil Systems, Inc. (ESSI) amended the agreement to sell its Turf Partners subsidiary assets to the J.R. Simplot Company. The new agreement calls for a fixed purchase price for Turf Partners' assets, payable in cash at the closing of the transaction.

The total purchase price includes a payment to ESSI of \$23 million, assumption of Turf Partners' bank debt of \$17 million and assumption of Turf Partners' liabilities associated with its existing vendors, contracts and leases. Under the amendment, ESSI will not be required to deliver a tangible net worth of \$3 million nor repay at least \$7 million of inter-company debt to Turf Partners.

Simplot agreed to provide ESSI with a \$2 million letter of credit and a loan of \$3 million to be used as working capital. The \$3 million loan is to be repaid at the close of the transaction.

Eco Soil and Simplot have also agreed to several distribution, supply and field trial agreements, including Simplot's purchase of a minimum of \$5 million of Eco Soil FreshPack® product over the first two years of a five-year agreement.