

California city considers banning pesticides

SONOMA, CA — It looks as though the city of Sonoma may follow neighboring Arcata's example as its city council has formed a committee to develop a proposal to end the use of pesticides and herbicides on city property.

Last February, Arcata became the first U.S. city to ban all landscaping chemicals on city property. Another city in the same county, Sebastopol, adopted a ban on pesticides on May 2 and established a voluntary toxics-free zone citywide to urge private property owners to reduce their use of yard chemicals.

Arcata claims it saved money by getting rid of pesticides and herbicides because it no longer had to do the training and record-keeping required by law when chemicals are sprayed.

But Sebastopol guesses it would have to spend \$30,000 on an extra full-time employee to equal the maintenance levels achieved with chemicals.

Over 10 gallons of Roundup and one gallon of the insecticide Sevinol were used last year in Sonoma, including for Sonoma Plaza, a popular tourist attraction where some feel many residents would be angered at the sight of weeds.

Public officials in Sonoma hope that efforts from volunteers to pull weeds in the Plaza and along bike trails would counter the elimination of pesticides and herbicides.

According to RISE issues

consultant Fred Langley, between 12 and 20 cities nationwide have instituted pesticide and herbicide bans. Most are located in California, with some in New York and one city, Carboro, in North Carolina.

Hidden costs of overtime

Those long spring hours of scrambling to handle the work may pay off on your organization's books but leave a hidden toll on your employees, according to a Cornell University study cited in the *Wall Street Journal*. Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations found that "overtime hogs" who work at least 11 and up to 20 hours of overtime each week showed "a much greater incidence of 'severe' work-family conflicts," according to the story. What does this mean exactly? Look for "significantly higher" levels of stress, alcohol use and absenteeism.

People & companies

Van Waters & Rogers appointed Ted Worster to the



newly created position of product/project manager for the company's Professional Products & Services business unit.

Pursell Technologies

named Jeff Higgins director of market development.



The **ANLA** named Geoff Galster director of regulatory affairs.

Dana Corp., Toledo, OH, opened its new Spicer Outdoor Power Equipment Components Division in

Frederickstown, OH.

Karl Schaeff & Co.

opened its U.S. headquarters in February. The company named Gilbert Herr president, Derek Wilcox controller, William Stenberg vice president of product support and Michael Lewis regional sales manager. Schaeff of North America handles sales, service and parts from their new 30,000-sq.-ft. facility.

Jacklin Seed hired Larry Perotti as technical service manager.

Boss Snowplow named Rick Klann sales manager of the Boss construction equipment product line.

Hunter Industries named Dan Reeves district sales manager for Georgia, South Carolina and eastern Tennessee; and John Pons district sales manager for Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle.

AlturnaMats, a major manufacturer of ground



cover mats, appointed Gerald Harry to the position of national sales

manager.

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation honored North Carolina State University Ph.D.

candidate Matthew Fagerness with its Award of Excellence. The annual

award is presented to an outstanding doctoral student of turfgrass science who has made significant and innovative contributions to turfgrass science research.

Hino Diesel Trucks

named Steve Roswold service manager.

e-Greenbiz.com, an e-commerce Web site serving the business-to-business needs of the Green Industry, has formed a board of advisors comprised of Green Industry experts and leaders.

