

SENATE from page 8

public should be protected from pesticide advertisements that convey the impression of safety," Guerrero said, noting possible cancer risks, birth defects and other potential long-term effects of pesticides. "The industry continues to make advertising claims that its products are safe or non-toxic while federal enforcement actions against such claims remain limited."

The lawn care industry contends that use of such terms as "practically non-toxic" in advertising are accepted in the scientific community and not misleading.

"The disputed facts are before the court but, as of this date, have not been adjudicated," said Dr. Roger Yeary of ChemLawn.

Sen. Reid, chairman of the subcommittee, signalled the hearing's tone with his opening statement: "Remember, lawn chemicals by their very de-



Golf course superintendent Bill Roberts (left) and Dr. F. Eugene Hester (right) of the National Park Service testify.

sign are dangerous," he noted. "Pesticides are designed to kill. And what kills garden pests and weeds can also have an adverse health effect on people."

Sen. Lieberman, whose statement was also made before the media's mass exodus, was even more emphatic.

"In some cases," Lieberman noted, "lawn care chemicals are toxic to humans. In some cases, lawn care chemicals can kill people. That is truth."

"Too many of the makers of lawn care chemicals and the purveyors of lawn care services have been irresponsible in dealing with the risks associ-

ated with the products. And, I'm sorry to say, the government has been derelict in its duty to protect the public interest."

Taking the stand to defend turf pesticides were Roberts, Tom Delaney of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, Dr. James Wilkinson of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation, Jay Vroom of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, Yeary, Dr. Warren Stickle of the Chemical Producers and Distributors Association and Dr. Michael Gough of the Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data.

Lining up on the other side were Guerrero, Ryan, Malhotra, Prior, Attorney General Robert Abrams of New York, Dr. Sheila Zahm of the National Cancer Institute, Anne Bloom of Public Citizen and Jay Feldman of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

—Jerry Roche □

WHAT THEY SAID IN WASHINGTON...

Selected quotations from testimony offered to the Senate Subcommittee on Toxic Substances, Environmental Oversight, Research and Development:

● "These are issues that have been neglected. We'll hear testimony that will get people talking."

—Sen. Harry Reid

● "I'm really concerned that the EPA has let this go on and on. We're dealing with real problems that deal with real people."

—Sen. Reid

● "The industry has stonewalled us in court. Your own estimates indicate that as many as 30 to 40 million people could be chemically sensitive."

—Hon. Robert Abrams

● "We do not intend to take the time of the subcommittee to present a detailed critique of the (Public Citizen) report, except to state that it is unauthoritative, inaccurate and misleading."

—Dr. Roger Yeary

● "The GAO says that we have too little information about most of the widely used lawn chemicals to say they are safe for people. Yet all of them are sold with the words 'EPA Registered' right on the label. And none of them are sold with adequate warnings."

—Sen. Joseph Lieberman

● "GAO found that the lawn pesticides industry continues to make claims (prohibited by FIFRA) that its

products are safe or non-toxic. EPA considers these claims to be false and misleading."

—GAO report

● "Of the 40 pesticides that comprise over 95 percent of the chemicals used by commercial lawn care firms, 12 are suspected carcinogens, 21 have been shown to cause other long-term health effects in lab animals or humans, and 20 have been shown to cause short-range damage to human central nervous systems."

—Anne Bloom

● "We are facing a national pesticide exposure crisis, the dimensions of which are not adequately calculated by the U.S. EPA. At the same time, people are getting sick from non-agricultural pesticide exposure in their homes, offices, schools and workplaces, through direct exposure, drift, volatilization, or by way of residues on treated landscapes."

—Jay Feldman

● "Manufacturers are making significant strides in diagnostics. These improved programs, involving state-of-the-art detection and identification kits, go a long way toward enhancing our targeted use of available technology."

—Jay Vroom

● "EPA should address the public's confusion about pesticide registration by banning pesticides containing known or probable carcinogens to be used for aesthetic purposes like lawn care."

—Mr. Abrams □



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SHORT CUTS

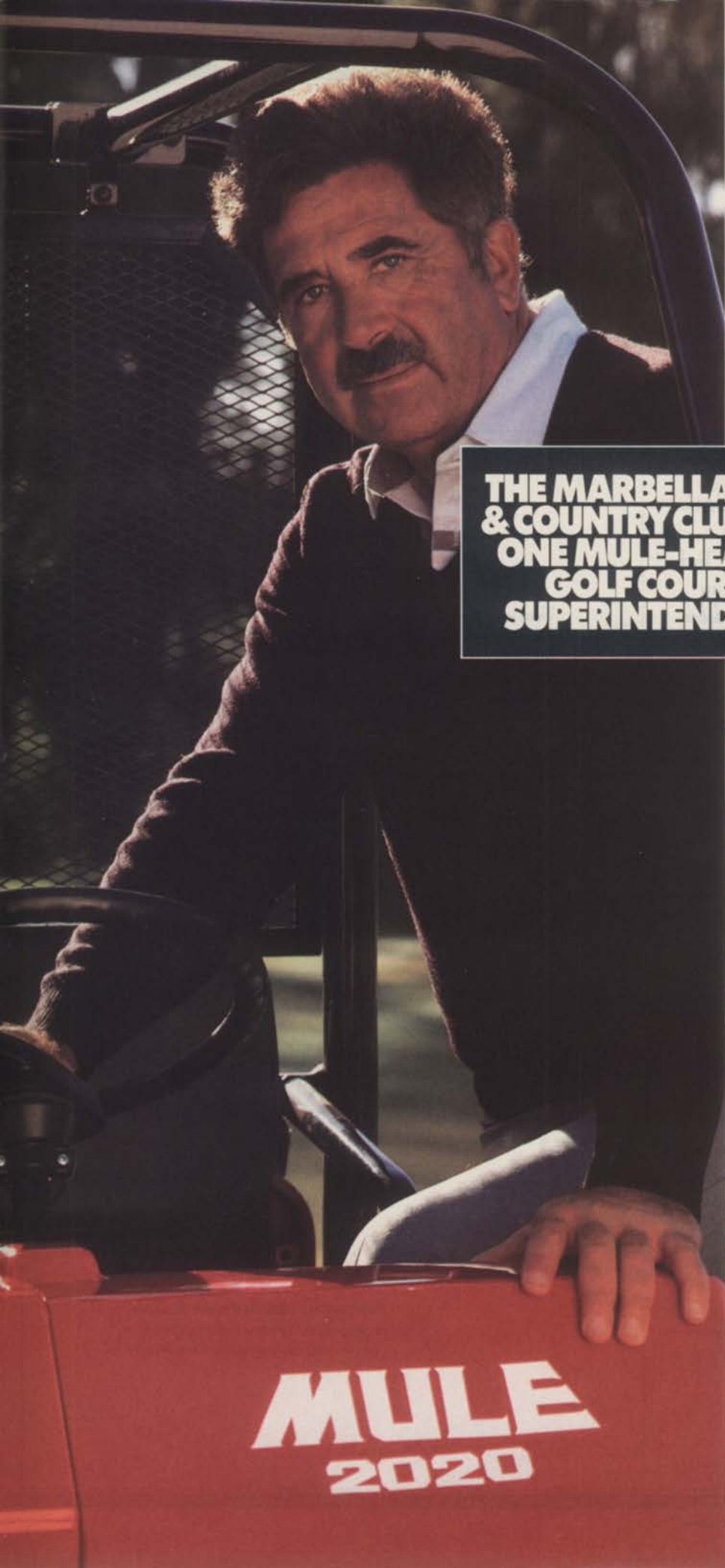
FLORIDA PROFESSIONALS...The projected completion date for the first professional landscape standard in Florida is June 1, according to *Florida Nurseryman* magazine. The Florida and Nursery Growers Association (FNGA) has established a Certified Landscape Contractor (CLC) Committee that is busy formulating the standard. "The program was established in response to unprofessional bidding practices from newcomers who didn't understand the cost of doing business nor have the professional knowledge required," the magazine notes. For more information on the CLC program, contact the FGNA at 5401 Kirkman Rd., Suite 650, Orlando, FL 32819; (407) 345-8137.

MOWING FOR FREE...George E. Renault III, superintendent at the Chevy Chase (Md.) Club, won the use of a Ransomes Fairway 5000 mower for one year, in a drawing held at the February GCSAA convention. "It feels great to be the winner," says Renault, "and I'm really looking forward to using the Fairway 5000 this season. We're anxious to put it to the test."

DECIDING THE FUTURE...Tom Lied believes the landscaping industry is "young, dynamic and on the threshold of busting loose." In comments to the Ohio Landscape Association, the owner of Lied's Nursery, Sussex, Wisc., stressed the importance of looking ahead. "We look 10 years ahead, we decide where we want to be, then we do something about it," Lied said. According to Lied, "the client is king," and everything a company does must be done to satisfy the client. "We got big by serving our clients, and by listening to them. If they wanted something, we granted their request."

PLEASE WELCOME...the Association of Montana Turf and Ornamental Professionals (AMTOP), which was recently formed in Helena. AMTOP's new president is **John Bass**, who believes in the need for unity and professionalism. AMTOP has also selected a board of directors and formed a committee to formulate the group's goals. Welcome to the fold.

A NEW FACE...The world's first landscaped garden, begun in the first half of the 18th century, at Stowe in the rolling English county of Buckinghamshire, northwest of London, is to be restored to its original splendor at a cost of £10 million (about \$16 million). A recent anonymous donation of £2 million will be used, along with monies from a public appeal for £1 million. A boys' school, which took over a house on the property, will remain.



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In addition to dollar spot, BAYLETON prevents summer patch, anthracnose, and other major turf diseases.

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LEGISLATION

'Day on the Hill' goes over big; LCOs surprised

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A "Day on the Hill" program here, co-sponsored by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and Monsanto Chemical Co., resulted in 35 visits by lawn care businessmen to their Senators and Congressmen.

"The feedback we got was extremely positive," said Dr. Dave Duncan of Monsanto. "Most of the LCOs had some anxiety coming in, but when they got up on the Hill, they found out that their representatives were real people."

"We also found out that the PLCAA really needs to have a legislative agenda. A presence in Washington has been missing."

Eighty representatives from the lawn care industry and its media turned out for the two-day event, said Jim



The Hon. Cooper Evans talked to LCOs in Washington's Executive Office Building.

Altemus of Monsanto.

Besides the visits with their legislators, LCOs also sat in on a presentation by the Hon. Cooper Evans, special assistant to Pres. Bush for agriculture and food issues, at the White House; and one by Dr. Paul Shouda of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.

Evans noted that the Bush administration will continue to support states' rights when it comes to pesticides.

"The administration has a fundamental belief in states' rights, (except when) the situation on a national scale becomes chaotic. But until we have re-done the reviews, it is the administration's belief that the states have no right to preempt federal legislation."

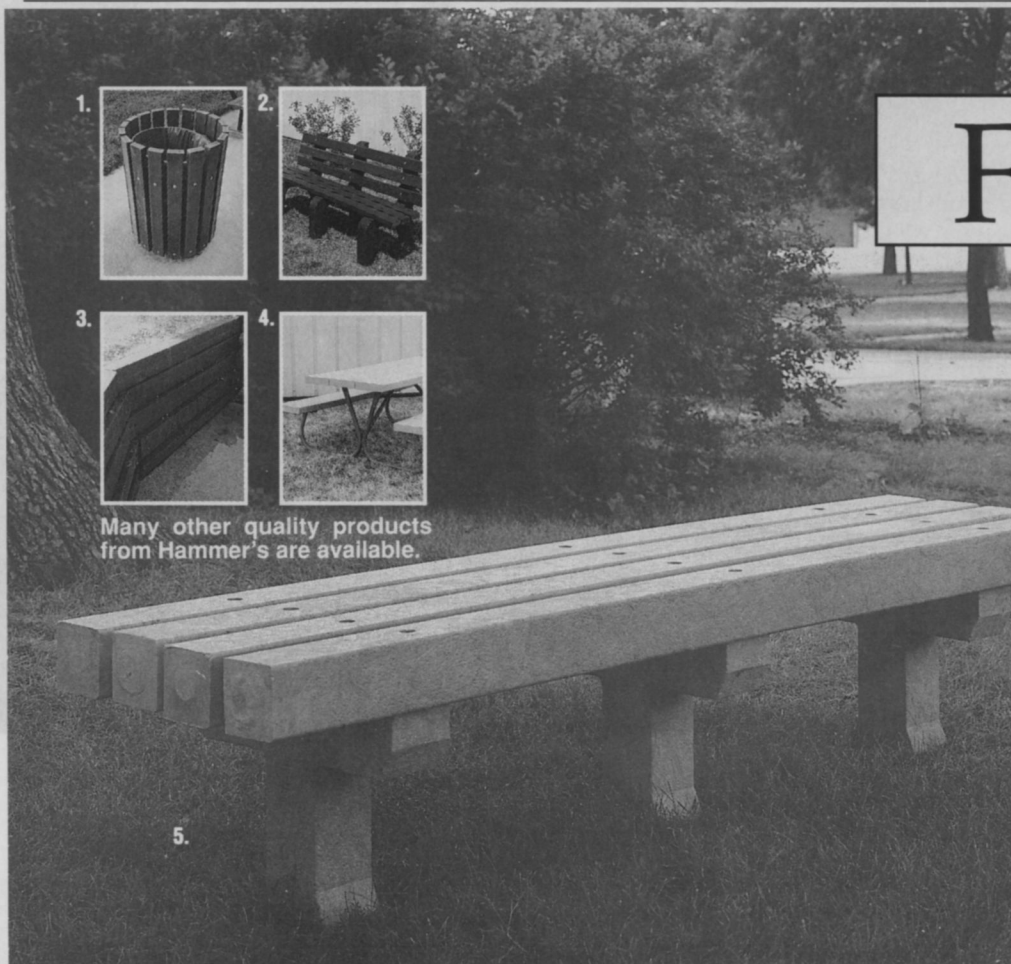
PLCAA president Rick Steinau, who—with Duncan—originated the "Day on the Hill" concept, was pleased.

"This turnout is a defi-

nite statement that the PLCAA did a good job," he said. "We also want to get the state associations involved in this kind of event, too."

Any lawn care operator with questions or an interest in attending "Day on the Hill" 1991 should direct them to the PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; phone (404) 977-5222.

—Jerry Roche □



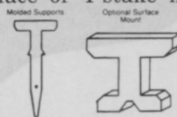
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- 5. Hi-back Bench 304*

*Indicates Reader Service Number for individual product.

EPA administrator promises a closer look at lawn care

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Testifying at a Senate subcommittee hearing, Victor J. Kimm of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sounded a warning to lawn pesticide applicators.

"EPA will be paying close attention to lawn care and other home pesticide uses, as we go through the re-registration process mandated by the 1988 amendments to FIFRA," he promised.

Kimm, deputy assistant administrator for pesticides and toxic substances, said the EPA will monitor advertising.

"In light of our increasing concerns over lawn care advertising as well as general pesticide advertising, EPA and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) met on Feb. 22 and decided to im-

plement formal procedures for referral of pesticide advertising cases between the two agencies."

Kim also noted some National Pesticide Telecommunication Network (NPTN) statistics in his testimony.

From April 1 through Sept. 30, 1989, for instance, the NPTN received 18,935 telephone calls, including 3,148 calls reporting adverse effects. Of those callers, 424 reported lawn care-related incidents, including 233 cases of human exposure, 96 cases of animal incidents and 95 cases of damage to plant material.

"These figures suggest that incidents are occurring, although not necessarily at an alarming rate," Kimm said. "Also, this information should be

treated with some caution since it is unverified."

This summer, Kimm said, the EPA plans to conduct a National Home and Garden Pesticide Use Survey, interviewing 2,000 Americans, to provide data on all types of pesticide use by homeowners, including lawn care pesticides.

Kimm noted that the EPA is considering legislation requiring lawn care and landscape companies to post after pesticides are applied.

"Although we are not seeing evidence that lawn care is a use pattern posing an unusual degree of health or environmental risk, we can agree that there are issues here that require the agency's careful consideration."

—Jerry Roche □

Design/build tops expansion

CLEVELAND — A recent survey conducted by this magazine indicates that more landscape contracting companies are creating new or expanding existing design/build capabilities than ever before.

Of 118 responses to the question "How do you intend to expand your company?," 55 referred to design/build services.

Next most popular area into which landscape contractors are expanding are ornamental care and aeration/renovation.

Questionnaires were mailed this spring to 500 landscape contractors who receive LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT.

Environmental considerations—including current and pending legislation—were cited by 34 percent of the respondents to another question: "What trends will change your

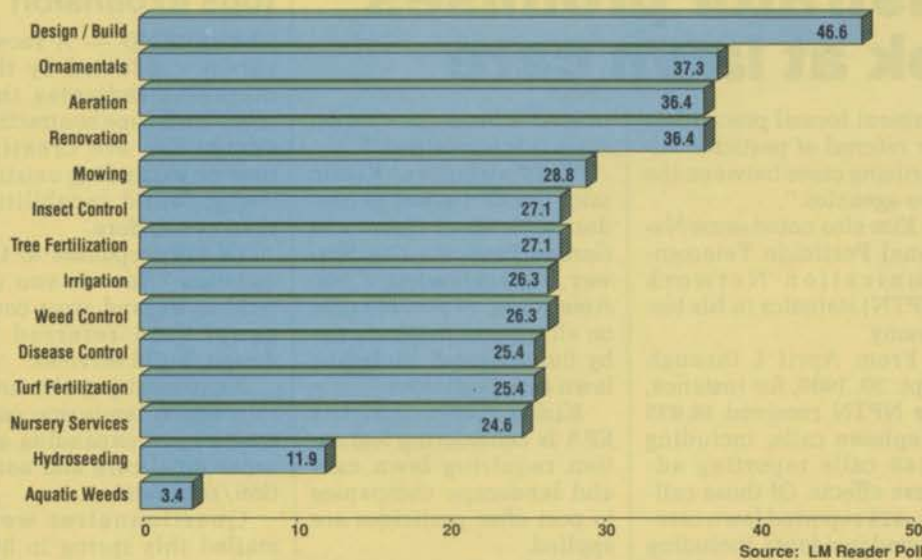
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How do you intend to expand your company?



company or force you to change the way you currently do business?"

Second behind environmental considerations was the labor shortage. (Most recent statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor indicate that unem-

ployment is decreasing by about 1/10th of one percent per month.) Also mentioned as business considerations in the landscape industry were waste disposal, insurance rates, housing starts, use of computers and water consid-

erations, in that order.

(See chart.)

Among new services landscapers plan to provide to clients this year, the most popular is lighting (9.3 percent). Others cited by mul-

multiple respondents are aeration, irrigation, nursery/garden centers, tree care services and "hardscaping." □

LEGISLATION

Reporting law passes in Calif.

FRESNO, Calif. — California's new pesticide reporting law—A.B. 2161—is now in effect throughout the state, and requires that virtually every pesticide user report all monthly pesticide applications.

The new law covers the reporting of materials that users have not had to report in the past, and applies to pesticide applications on golf courses and turf and sod farms, in cemeteries and parks, and along roadways. Reports are due by the 10th of each month preceding the application.

Industry sources say they hope the law will help to temper the initiative drive of California Atty.

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