

From Tee-2-Green

# Penn Pals Profile:

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Scientific name:	Growth habit:	Shade tolerance:	Heat tolerance:	Cold tolerance:	Traffic and wear tolerance:	Seeding rate, greens:	Seeding rate, fairways:
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## AS WE SEE IT

TERRY McIVER, MANAGING EDITOR



### Landscapes often spoiled by so-called progress

They're widening Route 82—a major east-west road out where I live—to accommodate a shopping mall that's being built in a neighboring city.

It's a two-lane road, too narrow for the heavy east-west traffic, even without the mall. The project is nearing that section of the road I use for my daily commute, so now I have to find a way around the construction.

The Cleveland Metroparks will be my Rock Island Line, my B&O, my Union Pacific! I'll head south about half a mile, catch the parkway going west, and then double-back to where I usually pick it up off of 82.

The Cleveland parkway system—also known as "The Emerald Necklace"—is a blessing. There's no better way to get to work than a drive through turf- and tree-lined roads, with an occasional deer sighting or goose-crossing. For the next few weeks I can still see through the bare trees and trace the contour of the inner forest.

The comparison between noisy construction and serene park land brings to mind how we're constantly building and expanding, as if we just can't leave the land the way it is. Recessions or "housing downturns" notwithstanding, we're always adding on.

When I moved to my current home, I thought I had found a refuge from heavy traffic and construction. Now, there's an increasing amount of commercial building going up in what, for years, had been open land. City council wants to rezone some sections for still *more* commercial property. They say it will help keep taxes and sewer rates low and increase property values and competition. (But wait a minute. Don't *higher* property values mean *higher* taxes?)

Progress, schmogress! Yes, that road should be widened, shopping mall or no shopping mall. But it's not progressive—nor is it competitive—to have a Super K-Mart or other multi-million dollar chain

store set up shop to crush small entrepreneurs with unfairly low prices. And there's not much a landscaper can do with acres of asphalt parking lots.

Just as the new construction is a sign of spring, so are the tulips I planted last fall, which are now in bloom. They're a bright spot in an otherwise unremarkable landscape around my condo development. The parking lot is starting to crack in spots, less than a year after it was resurfaced. It looks to me as if the people who spend our maintenance fees went for the notorious low bid, and I don't like it!

Vandals recently ruined the basketball assembly on the condo grounds. Twice the supporting post was badly bent, twice repaired. Then the senseless Huns broke it clean in two.

A new one's being installed; let's hope it stands the test of time.

Which brings me to my car—which has certainly stood the test of time. Soon I'll need another one. My Pontiac's on its 106-thousandth mile, and rust is finally doing it's hungry best on the body. It needs a fuel pump, the heater's busted and there's an oil leak that wants plugging.

My dad found that car for me. He spotted it while strolling by a dealership at a time when my Chevy was on extended life support. It's been a good ride for five years, and soon the ride will end. But at this point, I don't know what I'll end up buying.

Hmm...maybe an earthmover...

# LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

MAY 1995 VOL. 34, NO. 5

## COVER STORY

### 8 Small business wins BIG!

Young Republicans open the way for pro-business legislation that had been blocked or buried in four decades of liberal and activist control. This six-page Special Report fills you in on the bright future that appears to be looming on the green industry horizon.

*Tom Johnson*

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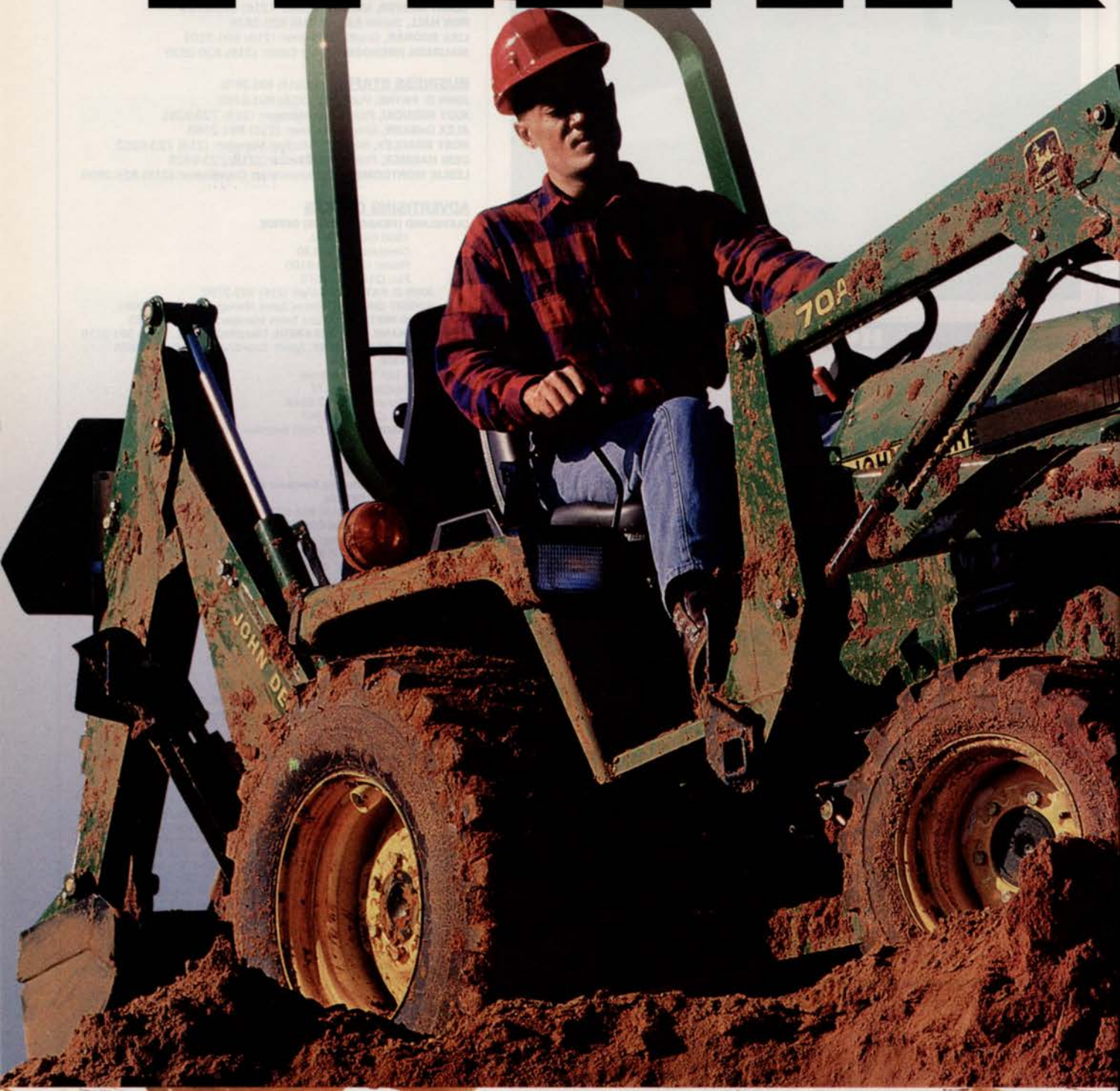
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# ASK THE EXPERT

DR. BALAKRISHNA RAO



## Sandburs a prickly problem

**Problem:** In the past year I have taken over the landscape management of two cemeteries that are plagued with grass burrs or sandburs. The problem gets worse the more I mow them. The soil is sandy-clay and slightly alkaline. We do not fertilize due to budgetary constraints and the frequent mowing. (Texas)

**Solution:** It is not clear what kind of sandbur you are dealing with. A USDA book, "Common Weeds of the United States," mentions field sandbur—also known as burgrass (*Cenchrus incertus*), Southern sandbur (*C. echinatus*) and longspine sandbur (*C. longispinus*).

You may be dealing with all three species. However, since you mentioned grass burrs, I believe you are dealing with the field sandbur, or burgrass. Field sandbur is an annual or biennial grassy weed, with spiny burrs. It produces flowers along a spike, with spikelets enclosed in spiny burrs. The burrs produce between one and three straw-purple colored seeds from June to September.

Since the plant can grow close to the ground or upright, short mowing or repeated mowing will not help to manage the problem. Mowing at regular intervals and bagging the clippings might help minimize the problem from a cultural standpoint.

Your best option in managing sandbur is to use herbicides such as Surflan, Snapshot or Acclaim. Repeat applications as needed, but make sure these products are labeled for your particular turfgrass.

## Controlling sprouts on cut stumps

**Problem:** What is the best way to get rid of sprout growth from cut stumps? A number of trees and shrubs produce these sprouts after having been cut. Is there any danger in using chemicals to prevent this growth? (Michigan)

**Solution:** Cut stumps often produce sprouts after the trees or shrubs have been removed.

To prevent this growth, apply herbicides such as Roundup, Garlon or Tordon—either as concentrate or diluted to 50 percent with water mixtures. Soon after cutting the plants, apply directly onto the cambium layer. One application is normally enough.

Utility arborists use either Garlon or Tordon for stumps. Tree care arborists generally use herbicides such as Roundup.

The above herbicides may adversely affect plants of the same species that have a root graft with the treated stump. In these situations, the treatment may not kill the plants grafted to the treated stump, but may cause injury. These treatments may also help manage sucker growth produced from roots.

Rain or overhead irrigation can wash the herbicide from cut stumps, thus reducing its effectiveness. Another caution is that if Tordon or Garlon washes from the application site, it can be absorbed by roots of non-target desirable plants adjacent to treated cut stumps.

Make sure that you are licensed to use these herbicides and have the proper pesticide licensing category to treat cut stumps.

## Try bait products for rodent control

**Problem:** We have had serious problems with mice and voles chewing the bark of low growing (groundcover) juniper plants. We have used chemical baits, with some success. Any other suggestions? (New York)

**Solution:** Rodents present a serious problem in landscapes. They chew the bark of plants at the ground level.

This problem is particularly severe if there is too much mulch around the base of trunks. Rodents, like mice and voles, will be active under thick groundcovers, such as juniper. This problem would be fairly common during winter months.

Using bait would be the most effective and practical method of managing them. Place bait stations where there is the most rodent activity, and check them periodically. Since you have had limited success with bait stations, make sure you are indeed dealing with rodent problems or something else.

Sometimes these problems may be related to slugs and/or snails. Even in this case, bait stations are the best solution.

Another potential cause of the problem is low temperature injury. Junipers, particularly a variety called 'Andora,' are very sensitive to basal bark splitting and bark peeling.

Check and see whether this is the problem. Unfortunately, not much can be done to prevent this. Improve drainage, provide proper mulching and fertilize as needed.

You could also look into the feasibility of trapping these rodents in addition to the baiting method. With all these efforts you should take care of those difficult to control pests.

## Treat dogwood borers in early May

**Problem:** Please give recommendations for controlling borers on dogwoods. (New Jersey)

**Solution:** Wherever dogwoods are being grown, borers are usually a major problem. At least seven kinds of borers can attack dogwoods. The most destructive among these are the flat-headed borer, *Chrysobothris femorata*, and the dogwood borer, *Synanthedon scitula*.

To control these, treat the trunk and lower branches with insecticides, such as Dursban, during early May, and repeat applications three times at three-week intervals. Read the label and follow directions.

Keep the plants under good care by watering and fertilizing as needed to improve vitality.

*Dr. Balakrishna Rao is Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.*

*Mail questions to "Ask the Expert," LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.*

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# A CAPITOL IDEA

*With the first 100 days of the Republican party's "Contract With America" nearing completion, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT magazine sent Cleveland-based business and issues writer Tom Johnson to Washington to survey the landscape and report back on what drastic changes in the direction of the federal government might mean to our readers. Johnson, a former editor of Pest Control magazine, interviewed industry association officials, Congressmen and federal officials in preparing this report. Is your business world about to change for the better? Read on.*



## Big winner in new 'American revolution' is small businessman

**Young Republicans open the way for pro-business legislation that had been blocked or buried in four decades of liberal and activist control.**

by Tom Johnson

■ It was the best of times. When the 104th Congress was gavelled to a close on April 7th, 100 days of Republican leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate had changed the way America is governed.

The consensus opinion is that one big winner in this typically bloodless American revolution is small business—in particular, small businesses most tormented by the regulatory excesses that have ranged from the harmless and ludicrous to the repressive and expensive.

For the green industry, the promise of relief is in the air. If the Senate follows the

"take-no-prisoners" lead of the House, and Congress has enough clout to override Presidential vetoes, you can look forward to legislation that means a sunnier business climate ahead.

Among them:

- **Incentives** for small business worth billions of dollars, including better estate tax exemptions, a 50 percent capital gains tax rate cut for individuals (25 percent for corporations), and a higher limit on equipment and structure write-offs.

- A **regulatory relief** package—the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act; the Regulatory Moratorium Bill; the Private Property Bill; the Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Bill (a direct attack on the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration); the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Regulatory Flexibility Bill.

- **Judicial limits** to punitive damages that juries can award, and restrictions on business liability.

Last November's elections resulted in wholesale changes that stripped a generation of older, mostly liberal committee chairmen from the Congressional roster. Patrick Leahy (D-Ver.), the liberal who controlled the Senate Agriculture,

Nutrition and Forestry Committee and stifled attempts at pesticide legislative compromise, has passed the chairman's gavel to the Republican Richard Lugar (R-Ind.).

Educating freshmen Congressmen on pesticide issues is one of the daunting tasks that faces the green industry.

Six weeks ago in the Washington offices of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), executive director Allen James had taken on the fatigued look that enveloped Congressmen and lobbyists alike in the nation's capital as legislation moved with lightning speed through the corridors of power.

James was working nights to keep track of scores of bills and regulations that could affect the green industry. He wasn't feeling overly optimistic that the Republican "Contract With America" had yet done anything for specialty pesticides.

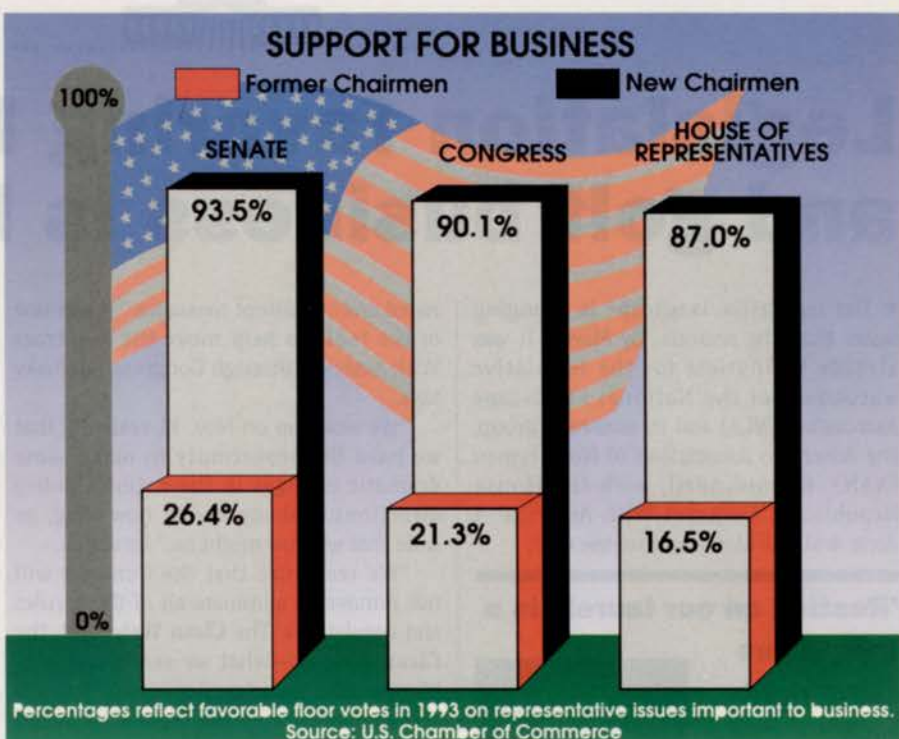
"I would have to challenge the assumption that things have turned completely around. Very few bills have started moving that will have an impact on our industry," he says.

He has other misgivings. The industry could well win the battle at the federal level, and still find itself hobbled as activists take their battles to the states, where legislators aren't as well educated in the intricacies of pesticide technology and don't have as much time to consider legislation.

His federal legislative laundry list will take considerably longer than 100 days to wash. Here are the top two:

**1) FIFRA**—In a nutshell, lawmakers are preparing to rewrite the nation's pesticide laws. The troublesome Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) will be under review this year. House subcommittees will see it in the late spring, and action will commence on the "everything is a carcinogen-zero risk" Delaney Clause of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) in the House Commerce Committee. Left unchallenged, enforcement of the Delaney Clause could strip the green industry of necessary pesticides.

H.R. 1627 was introduced last year in the House by Rep. Roy Rowland, (D-Ga.), Rep. Richard Lehman (D-Calif.) and Rep. Tom Bliley (R-Va.). Bottled up in Democrat-controlled committees in the last Congress, the legislation would establish a "negligible risk" policy, diluting the Draconian theoretical risk levels established by the EPA. It would also speed up



the review and cancellation of suspect pesticides, allowing older, theoretically riskier pesticides to be removed from the market to be replaced with newer, "less risky" pesticides.

Even the EPA wants FIFRA amended to drop Delaney and replace it with some form of negligible risk legislation. It is putting pressure on Congress to reform FIFRA with the announcement that it plans to release an extended list of pesticides marked for review under Delaney.



**Allen James has loads of political 'laundry' ahead.**

James expects the EPA to snipe at the bill, and small groups of Democrats want to water down the negligible risk language. He isn't counting on the bill coming out the way it was written.

Other hurdles? James fears that President Clinton will veto the bill "if it goes too far in helping an industry like ours."

**2) Clean Water Act**—Reauthorization of this law, a centerpiece of activist policy as originally proposed, would force mandatory reductions in what technicians call non-point source reduction (run-off) from

urban areas. RISE and allied organizations are working with the new Republican majority to fold industry concerns into less stringent legislation.

Enforcement would mandate pesticide reduction, James warns, "when in fact, the detections of our products are not really an issue of concern for water quality. The fact is that there is little contamination of waterways from urban areas.

"Our objective," he says, "is to remove those mandatory requirements, and to make certain that, when passed, the act does not include enforcement language. The goal is to prevent legislation that would inadvertently continue to over-regulate our industry."

"In the past," James continues, "we were trying to stop legislation that would absolutely have harmed our industry. It was easy to see the problems." Now, he says, RISE has to see that well-intended legislation "does not unintentionally hurt our industry."

Even with friendlier faces in the committee rooms, the lot of the pesticide lobby is not going to be an easy one. James cautions that "legislative reform is not going to happen overnight. I see a lot of negotiation and education, and the final result will still require compromise." □



# Legislation favoring landscape and golf business is blooming

■ The legislative landscape is changing faster than the seasons. By March, it was already springtime for the legislative watchdogs of the National Landscape Association (NLA) and its umbrella group, the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN). By mid-April, with the House Republican "Contract With America" a done deal, the bloom was on the rose.

## 'Resting on our laurels is a dangerous thing right now.'



Ashby P. Ruden

"This is the window of opportunity we have for legislation beneficial to the landscape businesses," says Ashby P. Ruden, the new administrator of NLA. "Resting on our laurels is a dangerous thing right now. The representatives who have moved in are going to take some nicks and chips, and we have to make sure we don't take too many of those nicks ourselves."

For green industry business interests—golf maintenance included—optimism is growing like a weed.

What has the first 100 days of the Republican "Contract With America" done for the green industry? The AAN was an early member of a powerful business lobby called "Project Relief," a brainchild of House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) and a strong marriage of business interests and the Congress.

"It's a textbook case of how you can move things when things need to be moved," says Ben Bolusky, director of government affairs for the AAN and its 2,300 members.

Certainly the November elections were the catalyst in shifting priorities and focus around, particularly on the House (of Representatives) side. "Project Relief" helped keep the pressure on with coordi-

nated and consistent messages. "It was one of the tools to help move the 'Contract With America' through Congress," Bolusky says.

"We woke up on Nov. 11 realizing that we have the opportunity to make some dramatic changes in the nation's policy directions. Nobody knows how long, or wide that window might be," he warns.

"We recognize that the Contract will not remove or eliminate all of these rules and regulations. The **Clean Water Act**, the **Clean Air Act**—what we see is just nibbling around the edges."

Bolusky decries the legislative trend that resulted in "a lot of rules and regulations that are unnecessary, or may have been propelled by the bureaucracy, that really don't get the job done. There's a point of diminishing returns at which legislation becomes very expensive with limited benefits."

The traffic jam of laws had become so intense in recent years, Bolusky said, "that laws became duplicative and contradictory. To comply with one Clean Water Act regulation, you can find yourself in violation of a wetlands regulation."

## 'We have the opportunity to make some drastic changes.'

Bolusky's goal? "We would like to see environmental rules and regulations—in terms of water, pesticides, and air—that achieve what they were meant to achieve without exacting a toll on business," he says.

Together with the Minor Crop Farmer Alliance, AAN has worked to solve the minor use pesticide problem that goes along with the reauthorization of FIFRA

(the **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act** whose 1988 amendments set a date of 1997 for the re-registration of minor use pesticides).

The legislation would streamline the EPA pesticide registration process, and provide incentives for the chemical manufacturers to maintain and develop new products.

However, because of the high cost of EPA pesticide registration, it may make good business sense in some cases for manufacturers to simply remove minor use products from the market because of their limited sales potential. "Minor Use" is usually defined as any crop other than corn, wheat, cotton and soybeans, based on volume of pesticides used.

With fresh help in Congress, AAN and its allies have reintroduced last year's **Minor Use Pesticide** legislative package, designed to inject some flexibility into the EPA's registration system, and to provide incentives for chemical manufacturers to continue marketing the pesticides necessary to the green industry.

Here are other top current issues supported by the AAN that affects the industry:

□ **Repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act:** This Depression-era law has artificially inflated wages on federally financed projects, including landscaping. The Congressional Budget Office projects that outright repeal would save the country over \$3 billion.

□ **Immigration:** A section in proposed stricter immigration laws would impose stricter sanctions against employers who employ unregistered aliens. Because landscape and related businesses often depend on seasonal labor. Passage may serve to deplete an already tight labor pool, driving up costs.

□ **Clean Water Act:** The bill sets up voluntary state standards for non-point source pollution (run-off). It also addresses wetlands, where it offers opportunities for landscape contractors as part of wetlands fill and restoration projects. (Friends of the Earth has targeted this bill for activist attention, warning Congressmen

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Ben Bolusky