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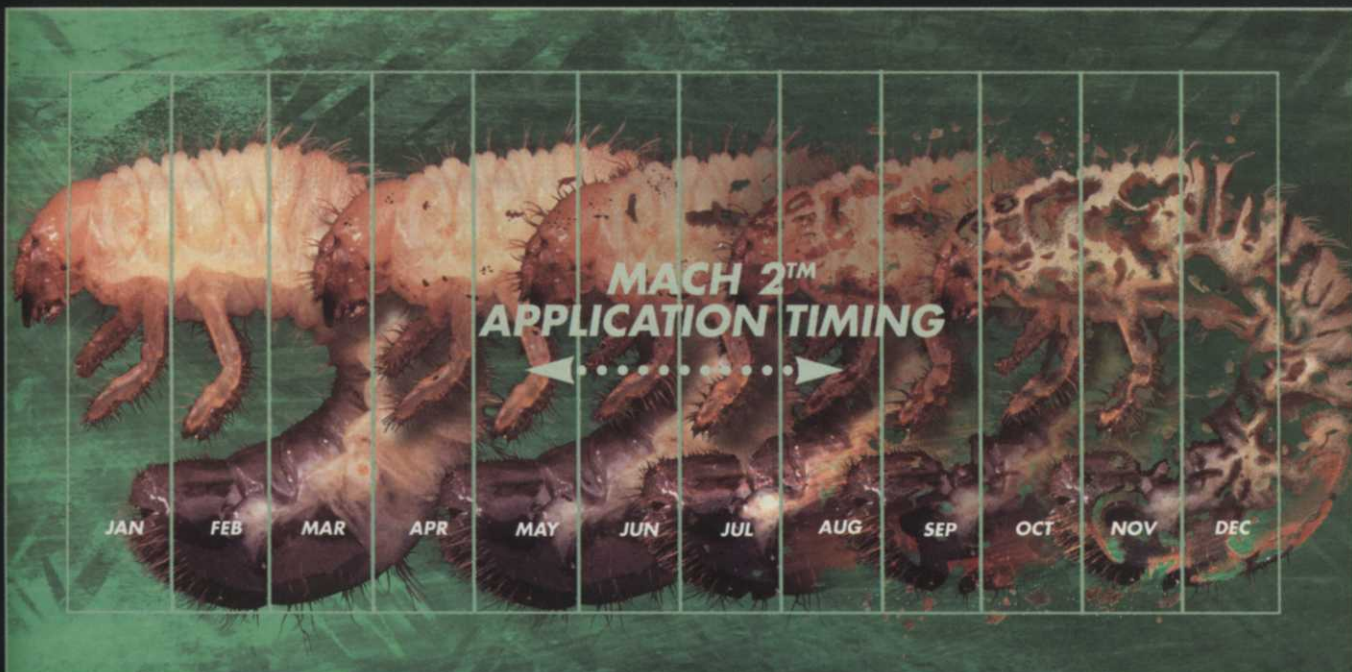
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Circle No. 111 on Reader Inquiry Card

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For more information or for the distributor nearest you, call 1-888-764-6432 and visit our website at www.mach-2.com.

MACH 2™

TURF INSECTICIDE

**ALL YOU NEED
TO PREVENT OR CURE.**

Circle No. 141 on Reader Inquiry Card

For the few of you who spend much of your time working outdoors, Lyme disease may be something you have heard about. If not, be warned. Lyme disease has become the most common tick-borne illness and is one of the fastest growing infectious diseases in the United States. It has been reported in 48 states and most provinces in Canada, and the ticks are spreading geographically; not surprising given the suburban edge effect which is so popular for deer habitat, and mild winters which allow deer populations to continue

to increase. The disease is caused by a bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is carried by ticks (deer and rodents mainly). The highest risk areas are: New England, the mid-Atlantic states, the upper Midwest and the Pacific Northwest.

While Lyme disease has been identified as a problem for some time, one of the initial difficulties with this disease was the fact that it had so many different symptoms that could appear like

other problems. This was further complicated by tests that were sometimes inaccurate; some medical professionals who did not actually believe in the disease ("it's all in your head" school of medicine); and a failure to recognize the actual geographic occurrence of the problem through much of North America. Experts believe it is underreported by as much as ten times.

This was a problem because the only way to successfully treat the disease has been through identification and a course of antibiotics. The sooner this occurs the fewer and less severe the symptoms, but permanent immunity may not develop and reinfection is possible.

Of the many problems in identifying the disease are: 1) the size of the ticks (smaller than wood ticks) and nymphs (the size of a period on

this page) made them easy to miss; 2) the characteristic "bull's-eye" rash did not always develop in the first three days to weeks after the bite or could easily be overlooked; and 3) flu-like symptoms were either vague or nonexistent (headache, fever, fatigue, joint aches, muscle aches and stiff neck).

While any early symptoms would disappear, the disease could eventually reveal itself in a variety of problems affecting the joints, tendons, heart or nervous system, resulting in arthritis, heart abnormalities such as heart block and myocarditis (inflammation of the muscular walls of the heart), as well as:

- ▶ skin lesions at multiple sites, not just the site of the tick bite;
- ▶ irregular heart beat, palpitations and fainting;
- ▶ intermittent joint swelling associated with inflammation (pain, heat and redness); and
- ▶ paralysis of the muscles on one or both side of the face, known as Bell's palsy.

SmithKline Beecham Biologicals has developed a vaccine for Lyme disease, LYMERix™ [Lyme Disease Vaccine (Recombinant OspA)]. It's been approved by the FDA and is expected to be available soon. The vaccine reportedly prevents the development of the disease in many cases. Questions remain and it's not clear yet whether booster shots will be necessary over time, based on the levels of antibodies required for prevention, and the long-term effects.

The vaccine is administered in a three-injection series with some side effects (injection-site reactions, flu-like symptoms and rash). LYMERix apparently works by inducing antibodies which enter the body of an infected tick when it feeds, entering the gut of the tick and killing it before it can transmit the bacterium to the would-be victim (www.lymerix.com).

Call the Lyme Disease Foundation at 800/886-LYME or their website at www.lyme.org for more information. **LM**

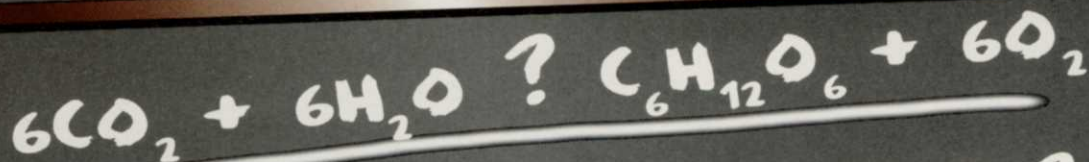
Agree/Disagree? Comments/Questions? Column Suggestions? Let Nancy Stairs know at 440/891-2623. Fax: 440/891-2675. E-Mail: nstairs@advanstar.com

Get in 'Lyme' for a new vaccine



Nancy Stairs

NANCY STAIRS
Technical Editor



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Kansas City	MO	Feb. 26	(800) 747-8733
Denver	CO	Mar. 1	(800) 747-8733
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Bay Shore	NY	Mar. 4	(516) 665-1370
Columbus	OH	Mar. 4	(800) 332-8733
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Toledo	OH	Mar. 5	(800) 332-8733
Elkhorn	NE	Mar. 8	(800) 747-8733
Indianapolis	IN	Mar. 9	(317) 891-8411
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Waukesha	WI	Feb. 16	(800) 423-3780
Glen Ellyn	IL	Feb. 17	(630) 423-3780
Novi	MI	Feb. 18	(248) 423-3780
Fort Worth	TX	Feb. 18	(817) 246-9730
Casper	WY	Feb. 20	(605) 342-7644
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West Palm Beach	FL	Feb. 22	(407) 647-3335
Miami	FL	Feb. 23	(407) 647-3335
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Scotts makes biotech alliances; cuts division

MARYSVILLE, OHIO—The Scotts Company reorganized its North American Professional Business Group in December and released 60 of the 100 employees in the ProTurf division.

Eco Soil Systems, Inc. also announced that its Turf Partners Division, which will exclusively distribute The Scotts Company's profession turf care products in the Midwest and Northeast, would hire a number of the former Scotts sales people.

Scotts said it reorganized its Professional Business Group to reduce annual operating expenses by \$2.1 million. "While this is a tough time to be implementing organizational changes, we felt that the

sales, service and cost savings benefits were substantial enough that we wanted to capture them in time for the 1999 season," said James Hagedorn who, on December 18, was named to the newly created position, president, Scotts North America.

Scotts said it will retain a consultative field sales force and field-based technical group to work with four independent distributors: Turf Partners in the Midwest and Northeast; BWI Companies, Inc. in the Southeast and Southwest; Wilbur Ellis Company in the Pacific Northwest; and Western Farm Services, Inc. in California. Scotts' Professional Business Group has already been

distributing its nursery and greenhouse products through most of these distributors.

"Based on our successful experience in distributing our horticultural products through these well-known distributors, we feel confident that this broadened relationship will bring better service and delivery to our professional turf and landscaping customers as well," said Hagedorn.

Scott C. Todd was recently named to lead the new Turf and Ornamental organization. In other news, Scotts:

► **announced a biotech alliance with Rutgers** to develop improved grasses for golf courses through genetic engineering. Scotts will receive exclusive worldwide rights to Rutgers' patented transgenic varieties of creeping and colonial bentgrasses.

► **announced a biotech collaboration with Monsanto.** Scotts and Monsanto are to share technologies including Monsanto's extensive genetic library of plant traits and Scotts' proprietary gene gun technology to produce improved transgenic turfgrasses and ornamental plants. The alliance will focus on providing professional and consumer benefits such as turfgrass that requires less mowing and water, and ornamental plants with larger and more plentiful blooms.

Methyl bromide phaseout pushed back

WASHINGTON, DC—The phaseout of methyl bromide was pushed back to the year 2005. The phaseout was supposed to occur on Jan. 1, 2001, but agricultural and green industry have been vigorously defending use of the fumigant which is widely used to prepare fields for planting, food crops and turf.

The American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) reports that methyl bromide production and importation will now be reduced from 1991 levels as follows:

- 25% reduction in 1999,
- 50% in 2001,
- 70% in 2003,
- 100% in 2005.

The use of methyl bromide has been linked to the destruction of the ozone layer. The new U.S. deadline matches the phase-out date for other developed nations.

A recent GCSAA newsletter reports that the Environmental Working Group, an antipesticide organization, has resigned from the FQPA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee over the delay in the phaseout of methyl bromide.

Arboriculture loses a friend

DENVER, CO — F. David Dickson, 58, battled cancer for six months before he died at his home on Nov. 5, 1998. Dickson was chairman of Swingle Tree Company of Denver, CO, and a former president of the National Arborist Association (NAA).



Dickson started his career in 1965 with the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company in Connecticut. In 1967 he moved to Denver to become a tree pruner with Swingle, subsequently working his way up the ranks. After becoming president of the company in 1989, Dickson guided the firm's expansion and became chairman of Swingle in 1998.

Dickson made a point of donating the firm's services for civic good.



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AgrEvo and Rhone Poulenc-Agro create Aventis CropScience

FRANKFURT, GERMANY — Hoechst and Rhone Poulenc will join forces in life sciences, forming a new global company under the name Aventis.

Under the terms of the agreement both companies —Hoechst AG and Rhone Poulenc S.A. — will contribute all of the assets of their respective agribusinesses, namely AgrEvo and Rhone Poulenc-Agro in a new entity, which will operate under the new name Aventis CropScience.

This merger will create one of the top global agricultural companies with a strong crop protection and environmental health portfolio, a leading position in biotech-

nology and a growing involvement in the seed industry.

With the financial funding of more than \$ 400 million per year for research and development, the new company will sustain growth in the traditional crop protection market through new environmental friendly chemical entities as well as in the crop production market through innovative crop productivity enhancing solutions based on chemicals, new traits and superior varieties.

The new company, together with its affiliates, is expected to come into effect mid-1999. Before closing of the merger, both partners' businesses will be run separately.

ISS honored for work at Busch Gardens parks

TAMPA, FL — The August/September issue of *Amusement Today* magazine listed the "Best of the Best" in the amusement and theme park industries, as voted by park patrons. The landscaping at Busch Gardens, Tampa tied for second place in the Best Theme Park landscaping category,



with Walt Disney World and Disneyland. The number one winner was Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA. ISS Landscape Management Services, Inc. has been making the landscapes at Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL, beautiful for the past 24 years. ISS also maintains the landscapes at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Adventure Island and Water Country, USA.

with Walt Disney World and Disneyland. The number one winner was Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA.

ISS Landscape Management Services, Inc. has been

[CLIPPINGS]

John Deere makes Scotts' tractors for sale through The Home Depot

RALEIGH, NC— This past fall John Deere teamed up with The Scotts Company to manufacture lawn tractors under the Scotts® brand name for sale exclusively through The Home Depot. There will be three models of lawn tractors, one yard tractor and one garden tractor as well as attachments.

"Scotts will have a quality, mid-priced lawn tractor that will uphold its reputation in the lawn care products business," said Mark Rostvold, senior vice president for John Deere's Worldwide Commercial and Consumer Equipment Division. "Home Depot will have as its store brand a name that's well accepted in the mass merchant marketplace and the level of quality that maintains its image in exceeding customer expectations. And John Deere will maintain a presence in the mass channel while continuing to support its valued servicing dealer network."

OPEL, CARB compromise on small engine emissions

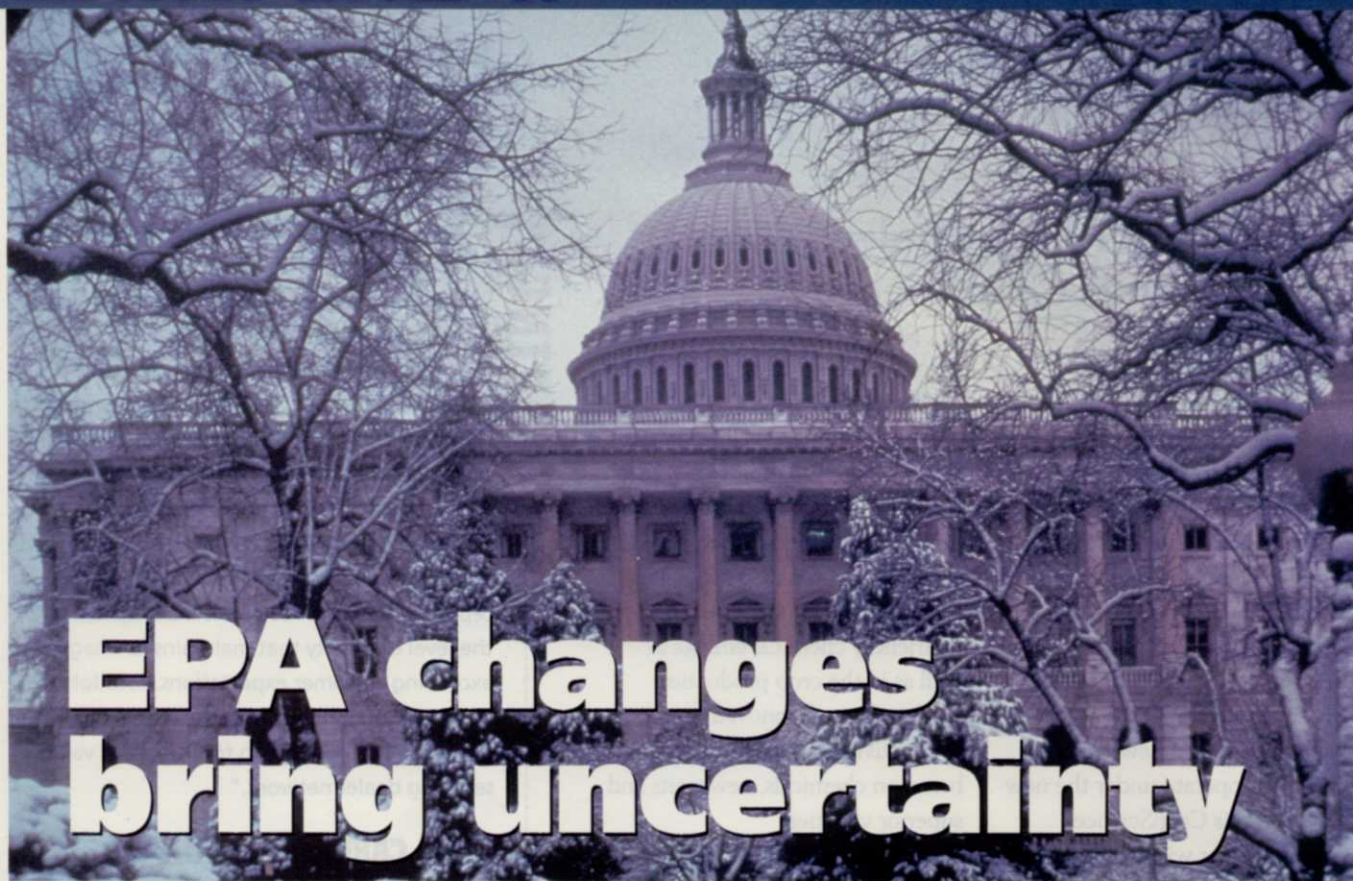
ALEXANDRIA, VA — An industry-negotiated agreement between OPEI and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) means that engines in the 25-hp to 35-hp range will not be subject to CARB's standards requiring catalysts and electronic fuel controls.

This will save money for companies which manufacture both consumer and commercial lawn and garden equipment. All engines below 35-hp will be subject to the same emissions standards for "below 25-hp" regulations.

The Andersons selects Michael Anderson president on Jan. 1

MAUMEE, OHIO— Michael J. Anderson, 47, became president and CEO of The Andersons, Inc., on Jan. 1, 1999. He had been president and COO of the company since Sept. 1996. He started with The Andersons in 1978. There are no plans to name a COO to succeed him, the company said. Richard P. Anderson, 69, former CEO continues as chairman of the business which was founded by his father Harold, in 1947.

The company is a full-line supplier of nitrogen, phosphate, potassium and compounded fertilizer products, in addition to operating six retail stores in Ohio.



EPA changes bring uncertainty

As if the FQPA isn't complex enough, EPA's high-level management changes will bring new faces and unknown agendas.

By SUSAN GIBSON/
Executive Editor

Although a new Congress will take its place this month, some of the more important issues in pesticide regulation will take place in the halls of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local governments, according to David Crow, legislative contact for Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), Washington.

On the local front, attempts to ban pesticide use on public lands continue to spread, with wide-ranging effects, reports Fred Langley, RISE manager of state government relations.

Both developments have the potential to change the ways lawn care and landscape managers go about their work.

FQPA tug of war

The best intentions of legislators may be tested as the EPA plans how it will implement the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Crow notes. Although the agency is charged with fair implementation of the act, many in our industry feel EPA isn't handling it correctly.

For instance, the EPA has an August, 1999 deadline to develop the first third of allowable FQPA tolerances for non-agricultural exposures to pesticides. To set the exposure levels, EPA must rely on either existing exposure data generated from tests (many of which have been conducted in the industry for pesticide certification purposes) or its own worst-case scenarios (an option EPA appears to favor). RISE and other industry groups fear the worst-case scenarios will generate unrealistic numbers for pesticide exposure and unfairly disqualify a number of materials.

"(The EPA) is thinking up worst-possible-case scenarios, which is a terrible way to regulate, especially with all the good usage data that is available," Crow says. "We (the industry) know a lot about exposure, how our products work, our market and the users. We know how people are thoughtful in the use of these products in and around their homes."

EPA's strategy to rely on its own scenarios ignores extensive evidence generated in years of testing by the industry, he adds.