TURF AND LANDSCAPE EXPO EXPANDS

Covering the entire 100,000 square feet of the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, CA, the annual Northern California Turf and Landscape Exposition will be held January 29-30, 1992. The event is sponsored by the Northern California Turfgrass Council.

In addition to increasing floor space to accommodate new and previous exhibitors, show organizers have tripled the number of free educational seminars. The traditional turf-related program, organized and presented by the University of California Cooperative Extension will be offered, as well as two concurrent sessions geared to the interests of landscape contractors, arborists, gardeners, golf course superintendents, landscape architects, irrigation consultants, and others.

For more information, contact NCTC, 425 Oak Street, Brentwood, CA 94513, (415) 516-0146. Fax (415) 516-1301.

PESTICIDE RULES TO TIGHTEN

Requirements for pesticide application and storage will be more stringent according to Art Williams, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's Field Operations Division. Williams spoke at a recent environmental forum hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Williams said that requirements for those who apply restricted-use pesticides, especially certified applicators, will be getting tougher.

The proposed recommendations are based on a 1985 task force report on the certification and training of RUP applicators. They address several areas of concern including groundwater protection, worker protection, endangered species protection, chronic toxicity of RUPs, and waste and container disposal.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Section Three, any pesticide classified by the EPA for restricted use "shall be applied only by or under direct supervision of a certified applicator." FIFRA's Section Four gives each state an opportunity to implement its own pesticide applicator program, and most have established such programs.

The new rules will require certified applicators to keep records of site-specific training, as well as show competency of non-certified applicators applying RUPs. Recertification will be required at least every five years for all certified applicators.

Some states already have restrictions similar to these. The EPA's Williams said the final rule should be "on the streets" in 1992.

Dennis Howard of EPA's Environmental Effects and Fate Division said regulations concerning pesticide storage and mixing/loading are still under development and are not expected to be effective until 1993 and 1994, respectively. The storage requirements are not expected to affect most superintendents because they would apply only to facilities that store 11,000 pounds or more of pesticide.

Rinse pads will probably be mandatory in areas where concentrated pesticides are routinely transferred. This regulation would affect golf courses that do most of their mixing in the same location.