

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY

BACKGROUND

The lawn and landscape industry is committed to responsibly using our expertise and experience to maintain healthy green spaces. As Congress and the Biden Administration push forward on policies to combat climate change and bolster our nations infrastructure it is important to acknowledge the pivotal role that urban and suburban landscapes play in our communities across America and the tremendous benefits they offer to the environment, businesses and families.

- Healthy lawns and landscapes benefit the entire environment by cooling the earth, removing carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air and protecting water sources from unhealthy runoff
 - **Professionally managed lawns**—in accordance with best management practices and University extension recommendation can sequester nearly two times the amount of carbon as unmanaged lawns.
 - **U.S. urban tree**—which often face greater pest density than rural trees, a pressure expected to intensify with climate change – store 643 million metric tons of carbon.
- Properly maintained and managed landscapes reduce the dangerous and deadly diseases transmitted from biting and stinging insects such as: mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas
- Recent studies indicate that healthy managed landscapes make people less stressful and improve attention and memory functions.
- Well maintained natural grass fields reduce injury rates from sports activities.
- Neighborhoods with tree-lined streets and larger yard trees have reduced crime rates.

INTEGRATED PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT – THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PESTICIDES IN MAINTAINING HEALTHY GREEN SPACES

Lawn and landscape professionals that maintain these green spaces are also committed to integrated pest management (IPM), a system of managing pests that

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- **Support** proposals in Climate Change or Infrastructure Legislation that promote **Urban and Suburban Landscapes**
- **Support** proposals in Climate Change or Infrastructure Legislation that acknowledges the **beneficial role of healthy landscapes** in combating climate change
- **Support** increased funding for USDA to **provide grants and further research** on the beneficial role of turf in carbon sequestration and water quality
- **Reject** legislation that proposes to dramatically **amend the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)** the robust regulatory scheme that ensures the availability of EPA-approved pesticides to be responsibility used by the landscape industry

CLIMATE CHANGE & THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY, *Continued*

involves using the best combination of cultural, biological, and chemical measures for particular circumstances to ensure the most cost effective, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable method of managing diseases, insects, weeds, and other pests.

Pesticide products are a crucial component of IPM. These products are essential in the preservation of outdoor green spaces that are enjoyed by all citizens and assist in our fight against climate change.

Pesticides are regulated under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and undergo rigorous testing before the U.S EPA approves them. EPA approval of a pesticide application is based on voluminous scientific studies reviewed by many EPA experts across a number of scientific disciplines. This regulatory review is important in ensuring that products are safe for people, including children and immune-compromised individuals, pets, wildlife and the environment. In addition, under law, EPA must review all pesticide products at a minimum every 15 years or if substantiated concerns about a product's safety are raised. Following EPA approval, pesticides must be registered in each individual state where they will be used.

FIFRA requires that accurate labels be placed on all pesticide containers that include very detailed directions for using the pesticide. The label is a legally binding document, and sets forth all the directions for use and the specific precautions necessary to protect users, consumers and the environment. Individuals using pesticides are subject to prosecution if they do not precisely follow the label directions. Further, in order to use pesticides, licensed lawn care professionals and other certified pest control applicators must take their state's annual training classes and pass an exam.

ACCESS TO GREEN SPACES IS A MATTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

All people, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances deserve to enjoy outdoor spaces. It is essential that safe and effective pesticides continue to be available to professionals that maintain public facilities including schools, parks, athletic fields, day care centers, hospitals, and residential communities. Public green spaces should not be infested with ticks that can cause disease, weeds such as poison ivy and ragweed that can exacerbate allergies or uncontrolled growth that can make parks and athletic fields unusable.

National Association of Landscape Professionals

12500 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 200 • Fairfax, Virginia 22033
703-736-9666 • www.landscapeprofessionals.org

CONTACT US

For more information, contact the National Association of Landscape Professionals.



Andrew Bray

VP, Government Relations

Andrew@landscapeprofessionals.org



Bob Mann

Director, State and Local
Government Relations

Bob@landscapeprofessionals.org



Karla Segundo

Manager, Government Relations

Karla@landscapeprofessionals.org