



Environmental Care Association of Idaho

Newsletter

Summer 2018

President's Corner

It's hard to believe that we are already past the solstice and right in the midst of the hot summer.

2018 is proving to be yet another interesting year for Idaho pest managers. So far this year, Idaho and the Northwest has documented incidences of West Nile Virus, Plague, and Hanta Virus. On the Turf and Ornamental side, we have seen some increased problems with diseases like Verticillium Wilt, Powdery Mildew, and Leaf Spot. But surprisingly as I view my own business and discuss business issues with other operators, these pest and disease issues may not be the most pressing concerns. We are a well-trained and capable industry to fight pests, weeds, and diseases. It gets a little more challenging coping with the greater economic and employment situations of the season.

The hottest issues that I see surround employment. Employment is at an all-time high, or you can say unemployment is at all-time lows. This is clearly a double edged sword. Low unemployment creates a shortage high caliber candidates, making attracting, hiring, compensating, and retaining a great employee base very challenging. While framing the same situation as high employment, we see high demand for our services, or many customers in the marketplace. creating the contrast between few available candidates for employment and many available candidates for potential customers.

As many of us struggle to get the best teams in the field and serve all the clients who would like for us to be their provider, we must never let our standards of excellence slip. As members of the ECA and this great industry we should consider doubling down on training and personal growth for our teams. There are many opportunities for training available, including the Idaho Pest Expo events that will be coming up in December, so make

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Idaho Pest Expo

Please join us December 11th and 12th for the **Idaho Pest Expo**, Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho . The annual membership meeting with be directly after the closing of the Idaho Pest Expo (approximately 12:30 p.m.).

ECA Education Day

On Thursday, December 13th, join us at Canyon Crest Event Center in Twin Falls.

NALP Neonicotinoid Talking Points

Recently, the twenty-eight member states of the European Union voted to ban all outdoor uses of neonicotinoid insecticides, expanding upon a ban initially put into place in 2013. While this ban is only in effect in some areas overseas, it is possible you may receive questions as a result. NALP is committed to educating landscape professionals, customers, and the general public about the safe use of lawn and landscape products, and alleviating misconceptions surrounding insecticides. [Click Here](#) to learn some facts about neonicotinoids you can share with your staff and customers.

Summer Safety for Outdoor Workers

Do you have a summer safety plan in place? From increased driving to hot temperatures, summer can pose many risks for landscape professionals.

Heat Safety

Don't let heat takes it toll on your team! Federal OSHA lists grounds maintenance and landscaping services as two of the six industries most affected by heat-related illness. In 2014, more than 2,600 workers across industries experienced heat illness and 18 died on the job from heat stroke and related causes, according to the agency.

Tips:

- Know that workers become overheated based on two factors: internal heat generated by physical labor and external heat in the environment.
- Create a written program outlining steps for protecting workers from heat illness and sun exposure that could cause cancer

- Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
- Take frequent breaks in shade or air conditioning, if possible.
- Wear lightweight, long-sleeved shirts, pants, and a loose hat with at least a 4-inch brim and a drape to cover the back of your neck. This will keep you cooler and help protect your face, ears and neck from sun exposure.
- Learn the signs of heat illness (see Key Points above) and what to do in an emergency. Monitor yourself as well as fellow workers for signs of heat-related illness, and remind co-workers to replenish fluids.

Driving Safety

With an increased job load, your crew is on the road more. A motor-vehicle crash takes place in the United States every five seconds, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Many of these incidents occur when employees are traveling as part of their jobs.

Tips:

- Make sure your company has a driver-safety program that includes training specific to operating trucks with trailers.
- Avoid impaired driving, whether by alcohol, lack of sleep or drugs, including over the counter and prescription medication
- Properly maintain vehicles and trailers based on manufacturer-recommended preventive maintenance schedules.
- Check driving records as part of your recruiting process and screen out those with poor records. Review current employees' records periodically and clearly define the number of violations an employee can have before losing the privilege of driving while on the clock.
- Demonstrate to employees the proper way to drive while towing a trailer. Also, demonstrate how to back up a trailer.

EPA awards \$394K to Idaho State Department of Agriculture supporting statewide pesticide programs

Seattle - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$394,000 to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to support its pesticide regulatory programs across the state.

"The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has been our long-time partner in environmental protection," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "We are pleased to support the pesticide programs in ensuring that pesticides are used properly, agricultural workers are protected, and Idaho's rich and diverse and agricultural landscape can thrive and remain a provider of safe, healthy food."

ISDA has authority over pesticide use in Idaho and conducts inspections, enforcement, training and monitoring for pesticide use throughout the state. Actions carried out by the ISDA

Pesticide program include:

- Investigation and enforcement of possible pesticide misuse incidents;
- Assures the competency of restricted-use pesticides applicators through its certification and licensing program; trains pesticide applicators to ensure the public, food and the environment are safe from pesticide residues;
- Provides outreach and training to ensure that pollinators are protected from pesticide drift;
- Conducts inspections of pesticide products at retail outlets for proper EPA registration, labeling and establishment information;
- Evaluation of pesticides registered in the state for their potential to contaminate groundwater resources.

EPA's Region 10 office administers and enforces federal environmental laws in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and 247 tribal nations: home to over 13 million people.

For more information on pesticides please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

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