

# CUTT

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## Legislative Impacts on the Turfgrass Industry in New York

**T**he prevalence of pesticide-restrictive legislation is affecting how pests are managed in schools, offices, parks, right-of-ways, athletic fields, and numerous other places where we live, work and recreate. At a national level, pesticides are being phased out through the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and the associated EPA pesticide review process. Although the FQPA does not directly affect the green industry, some chemicals that face scrutiny under that review are being removed from the marketplace either voluntarily or by mandate.

Turfgrass managers are impacted more directly by constraints on practices that may affect ground water, expose children to hazardous compounds, or are perceived as non-essential, cosmetic applications. Voters and lawmakers are sending consistent messages that they want more information on the pest control practices used in their environs, and they are less tolerant of the risks associated with these practices.

On a local level, many municipalities are mandating integrated pest management (IPM) programs and specifying exactly if, when, and where a pesticide may be used. For example, in 1996 the city of San Francisco enacted an ordinance that mandated IPM and banned most pesticides in public parks, buildings, buses, rights-of-way, and bodies of water. Two years later, they also passed a revolutionary pesticide reduction policy for schools. Their IPM program includes provisions for ongoing progress assessment, education and a communications strat-

egy. These policies are amongst the most comprehensive in the country, and are considered model programs by many environmental advocates. Another west coast city, Seattle, implemented similar regulations in 1999.

### Origins of Concern

The "era of pesticides" has been with us since the second world war, and concerns over environmental and human health have been part of the public discourse since *Silent Spring*

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