

Legal Notice

State Plant Board Quarterly Meeting and Public Hearings

The Arkansas State Plant Board will meet at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at the State Plant Board offices, #1 Natural Resources, Drive, Little Rock, AR.

1. **Public Hearings:**

A) **Public Hearing** to consider the following changes in the seed regulations:

The Plant Board recently directed the Seed Division to formulate a proposed regulation to amend the regulations in Circular 15: Official Standards for Seed Certification in Arkansas (Under Act 73, A. C. A. 1987, Sections 2-18-101 - 2-18-108). The vegetatively propagated turfgrass standards in these regulations require isolation distances, land requirements and three inspections during the growing season to determine varietal purity of turfgrass sod. The proposed changes are to make the fees more equitable for small and large acreage turfgrass companies, and still cover the expenses of providing the turfgrass certification program. Currently the acreage fees are \$30 / acre and cover three required inspections and labels (certificates). The proposed fees of \$500 for the first 10 acres and \$12 / acre for each additional acre are being put forward as a more equitable fee structure for companies that participate in the certified turfgrass program.

If you have questions or comments, you are invited to attend the hearing. If you are unable to attend, but would like your written statements entered as a matter of public record, please send your statements to the attention of Mary Smith at the Plant Board Seed Division, PO Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. If you would rather call, I can be reached at (501) 225-1598.

B) **Public Hearing** to consider changes to the Regulations on Plant Diseases and Pests:

The hearing will be to address the inclusion of language in the rule that will allow Arkansas forest tree nurseries to utilize inputs, methyl bromide, in the production of seedlings for sale intra-state. Current federal regulations allow for this usage in inter-state commerce. With there not being a suitable replacement for this chemical, nurseries from outside Arkansas are able to produce and sell seedlings inside the state at a lower price than the Arkansas nurseries.

Comments may be mailed to: Nursery Hearing, Arkansas State Plant Board, P.O. Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. Comments will be accepted until the close of business on Tuesday, December 15, 2006. Anyone wishing to make comments in person may attend the hearing and they will be afforded the opportunity to present those comments.

C) **Public Hearing** to consider changes to the Regulations on Plant Diseases and Pests:

The hearing will be to establish regulations for the purpose of reviewing information on and rejecting or allowing production of rice having characteristics of economic impact in Arkansas. This is to comply with Act 1238 as passed by the Arkansas legislature in 2005.

Comments may be mailed to: Rice Hearing, Arkansas State Plant Board, P.O. Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. Comments will be accepted until the close of business on Tuesday, December 15, 2006. Anyone wishing to make comments in person may attend the hearing and they will be afforded the opportunity to present those comments.

D) **Public Hearing**. This public hearing will be for the purpose of considering making permanent an Emergency Rule adopted September 29, 2006, to amend the 2006 Handbook 130, Section G pertaining to Biofuels. The amendment allows flexible labeling of certain types of blends.

Written comments concerning the proposed regulations should be submitted to: Darryl Little, Arkansas State Plant Board, #1 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205, or fax to 501-219-1697. All comments must be received by the close of business on December 15, 2006. Comments may be made in person during the hearing.

2. Approval of Board meeting minutes
3. Approval of pest control exam grades
4. Standing Committee Reports
5. Other business

Board meetings are open to the public. For further information concerning the meeting, contact Darryl Little, Director, at 501-225-1598.

Darryl Little, Director