

# Sandoz Poll: Pesticide users share the public's concern for safety

The second annual Sandoz National Environmental Poll surveyed more than 2,000 users of pest control products. Some of the positive findings include:

- Users of pesticides feel a sense of partnership with the public and share its concern for pesticide safety.
- They are taking personal responsibility for improvements, especially by using safer products and improving application practices.
- They also support tough regulations aimed at preventing pesticide misuse.

However, the results were far from a whitewash. The respondents were surprisingly candid about areas in which our industry can improve. They said misapplication occurs occasionally. They admit they don't always wear protective clothing or dispose of containers properly. They also believe there are areas needing more regulation.

According to the golf course superintendents surveyed, the most serious issues associated with the use of pest control

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products are safety, environmental impact, proper application and public perception. Safety was the highest response at 33 percent.

More than three-fourths of the golf course superintendents surveyed said they are dealing with more public concern over pest control and the environment compared to five years ago. Almost 70 percent said education is the best way to reduce this concern.

Fifty-three percent said they have not heard any complaints relating to the use of pest control products from the public, their neighbors or customers. Of those who said they have heard complaints, smell/odor was the most frequently mentioned at 15 percent.

## Responsibility

Manufacturers, golf course superintendents and government were most frequently mentioned as those who have primary responsibility for correcting problems associated with pest control products. Manufacturers received the highest response at 31 percent.

About half of the golf course superintendents surveyed said their personal level of concern associated with pest control has increased over the past five years, and about half said their concern has stayed the same. Of those who said their concern has increased, they said it is primarily due to personal awareness, public awareness, environmental impact and more government regulations. Personal awareness was the highest response at 32 percent.

According to the following percentages of golf course superintendents surveyed, people in their industry always:

- Use safer pest control products when available 70 percent
- Wear protective clothing 65 percent
- Dispose of containers properly 78 percent
- Follow labels closely 93 percent
- Notify their neighbors when using

pest control products 25 percent

- Attend educational classes 59 percent

While 25 percent said their industry always notifies their neighbors when using pest control products, more than 60 percent said notification is important.

More than 65 percent of the respondents said they are making fewer applications of pest control products.

Almost 60 percent said they are familiar with integrated pest management. Of those, more than three-fourths said they have used such a program.

More than 60 percent said they are doing things differently regarding the use of pest control products compared to three years ago. The most frequently mentioned responses as to what changes are being made were using safer products, using less product and improving application methods. The highest response was using safer products at 37 percent.

The most frequently mentioned reasons as to why changes are being made were:

- Public opinion Safety issues
- New products available
- Personal sense of responsibility

More than 20 percent of the golf course superintendents surveyed said they do not plan to make changes in their use of pest control products in the future. However, those planning to make changes most frequently mentioned encountering more regulations, using safer products, using less product and adopting integrated pest management as changes they expect to make.

More than 50 percent of the respondents said golf course pesticide products are never knowingly applied improperly, and only four percent said misapplication occurs frequently.

Almost 75 percent said the enforcement of penalties for misapplying pest control products is adequate. Mandatory

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## 120 attend seminar on environmental leadership

On Friday, May 13, at the Naples Beach Club, about 120 golf course superintendents and other concerned professionals attended a seminar led by Dr. Michael Coffman.

The focus of the seminar centered around the elite leadership in the environmental movement. This leadership probably comprises less than five percent of those people involved in environmental activism.

Dr. Coffman exposed the political

and quasi-religious agenda behind this small but powerful group. They have been very effective in promoting legislation that has had significant impact on our lives, the economy, and amazingly, even to the detriment of the environment, without having to demonstrate any peer-reviewed scientific evidence or proof.

To counteract the emotionalism, extremism, and fanaticism (that incidentally provides good material for the me-

dia), we must fight this battle on a grass roots and local basis. It must be done using the truth, solid scientific evidence and an ongoing commitment to environmental sensitivity and public education relating to our own operations.

If you're concerned about your profession, free enterprise, private property and government growing out of control, please call 207-945-9878 to obtain a copy of Dr. Coffman's book, *Saviors of the Earth?*

## Poa Weekend a professional, social success

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ber of the Ridge Chapter, showed any mercy on the field.

A net 69 on a tough day is a score to be proud of so you can imagine how happy David Oliver of the Treasure Coast Chapter was with his gross 69 good for a four-shot victory over Mark Hopkins. It was Oliver's third victory in

the past four Poa Annuas. Dick Harrell won the Suppliers Division with a solid, even-par 72 followed by Gary Whilhelm. A cookout lunch followed the tournament as wives and children congratulated or consoled their favorite linksters.

It almost seems unrealistic to have so much fun and still make money. Over \$10,000 was raised this year for the turfgrass industry.

Of course, a get together like this takes a lot of hard work and great sponsors. The Naples Beach Club and Dick Naccarato were fabulous as always. The sponsors all deserve our respect, our thanks and our business. On behalf of the Everglades board of directors, it was simply a labor of love for our proud Poa Annua tradition.

## Poll: 87% say current safeguards adequate

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education and certification for users, easier-to-understand labels and pesticides prescribed and applied only by licensed applicators were the most frequently mentioned solutions for preventing misapplication of pest control products.

Almost 50 percent said there is an area

regarding the use of pest control products that should be regulated more to prevent practices that are unsafe or risky. Application methods and homeowner use of pest control products were the most frequently mentioned areas needing to be regulated more.

More than 87 percent said they agree the safeguards already in place are suffi-

cient to ensure safety to the environment, the public, animals or wildlife and actual users of pest control products.

At 41 percent, wearing protective clothing was the most frequently mentioned pest control regulation/practice that contributes the most to the safe use of pest control products. Record keeping also was mentioned frequently.

## Benefield: Are you willing to pay for the real McCoy?

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horror stories from you the superintendent that this work is being done.

And it is up to you the superintendent to assure that the program succeeds. If you don't insist on "certified" sod and sprigs when you rebuild or re-grass your course,

the program is doomed. If you go to non-certified producers because of their lower price you deserve what you get as far as the grass quality goes.

The larger injustice however will be that you will have let down your profession.

You have an obligation to support those programs endorsed by the professional association you belong to which are progressive and of merit. This is one of those programs. It needs your support and help. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish.