

Clippings

Insecticides, pesticides part of nature

We read with interest the Feb. 27 article in the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* about the young boy who allegedly is having problems with pesticides. More than 99 percent of the insecticides and pesticides humans come in contact with are produced naturally by the fruits and vegetables we eat. Fewer than 1 percent of the insecticides and pesticides are man-made. Of those naturally occurring substances, half, if ingested in excessive quantities, will cause cancer or other detrimental effects. The reason they are safe is that we do not consume excessive quantities of these goods.

The use of pesticides and insecticides is very rigidly monitored and controlled by various governmental agencies including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Most individuals with asthma are allergic to a variety of naturally occurring aeroallergens. Currently, in Florida, we are in the midst of the worst allergen season of the year. Eleven oak species and many other trees bloom at this time of year and disseminate tons of pollen into the air. Many individuals

with allergic rhinitis and asthma are allergic to these pollens and develop asthma and hay fever from inhaling them. Fifty percent of Americans have a cat or dog in their home. Dust mites and cockroaches also exist in Florida homes. These animals are responsible for many indoor allergens and thus cause allergic respiratory problems.

The words "pesticide" and "insecticide" engender fear and inappropriate emotional reactions by many lay individuals. When these substances are used properly, they won't cause health problems, even in allergic individuals.

It is important for society to continue to rely on objective scientific studies which indicate that pesticides and insecticides, used correctly, are not only essential to our quality of life, but are safe to humans.

Hugh H. Windom, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Richard F. Lockey, M.D.

Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and
Public Health

College of Medicine, University of South
Florida

*Submitted by Mack
Baugh, CGCS*

*Story originally
published by the
Sarasota Herald-
Tribune*

Clippings

On Green Speeds and Golfers

Recently, I had occasion to dine with a famous golf course architect. I respect this man's work very much, and value his opinion. And as with so many conversations in life, I seem to think of the perfect thing to say *after* we've parted ways.

This is one change to get my "brilliance" to the light of day.

Among the topics that we discussed that night were issues related to green speed. How fast is too fast? What is acceptable to the amateur golfer?

Anyone who has ever played golf with me knows that I'm the definition of the "average"

golfer. For this reason, not mentioning the fact that I am never without opinion, I feel that I am more than qualified to speak to this "speed-thing," and further muddy the water for us all.

Pontification. Stimp meter readings (aka green speeds) are a lot like driving a car. First, speed is relative, and dependent on the traffic and road conditions. Second, the faster you go the less margin of error you assume. And lastly, 99.44% of us are entirely ill-prepared for speeds we claim to want.

Speed is Relative. All players on a given course have to putt on the same greens. Speed