

Don't you just love spring? The temperatures have warmed up and grass is growing consistently again, the birds are singing, only to be drowned out by the sound of hammers and construction equipment re-building the members' clubhouse that got destroyed in the hurricanes of 2004. Yes, you are not in that boat alone.

Like many others we are still recovering from the storms in 2004 and '05. I do hope everyone has recovered as best as possible. Just

Get Proactive On Fertilizer Regulation

think, it won't be long and you will be able to sit back and reflect on how you and your staff were able to overcome these challenges to make a terrific golfing season.

Speaking of challenges, another storm is brewing out there and it's not a hurricane.

This ill wind is coming from the activists who always blame golf courses and lawns for pollution. The recent trend is to blame phosphorus and nitrate pollution on turfgrass fertilizers. Ok, it's not new but you know what I mean. I'm hearing and seeing stories of county officials trying to ban synthetic fertilizers, trying to ban soluble fertilizers, trying to ban fertilizers totally.

We have to remind them again and again that properly applied fertilizers do not leach. Present them with the facts and help dispel the myths. Tell them how you really do it. Remind them that it is a business and that wasteful practices just don't make sense. Tell them how you properly apply products and do so with restraint in regards to water bodies and potential weather events. Tell them how you send in soil samples to labs that and match your fertilizer to the needs of your soils. Tell them how you watch the weather. I haven't met a superintendent yet who couldn't tell me the weather forecast for the next few days.

We have to know this information. It's our job. The problem is that most people don't know that we know and what we do.

You can sit back and wait until this blows over and try to repair the damage after it has been done. Remember the hurricanes? Or maybe, just maybe, you can do something about it. You know, take a little pre-

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ventive action.

When you hear someone talking about all the alleged misuse of fertilizers and pesticides on golf courses or home lawns, or see a one-sided newspaper article, correct them! Write a letter to the editor. Tell the facts. If you have kids, go to their schools and talk to the students and teachers; get involved in the Audubon Program. Go to your local chapter meeting. Continue your education and reach out and educate others as well.

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