Golf Course News

Pesticides embroiled in controversy

The EPA's regulating and registering laws for certain lawns without adequate information," she said. "They don't know exactly what the extent of inhalation and dermal absorption there is out there."

Weiss added, "With 7 million American households hiring these companies every year, requiring sign posting, the potential for exposure is great, as I see it. The fact that they're diluted doesn't mean much.

Weiss said using pesticides constitutes "an unnecessary risk." Many of these chemicals are just not necessary. There are effective ways to control your lawn without using chemicals.

Public Citizen recommends:

• The EPA ban lawn care pesticides from being sold to the public.
• Congress ensure that federal agencies take decisive action against false and misleading claims by lawn care companies and with very few states giving consumers protective information on pesticides.
• Congress require lawn care companies to give consumers guarantees of safety.
• The EPA conduct a comprehensive exposure study for all lawn care chemicals, speed up testing for possible human and environmental safety.

"The law... puts interests of pesticide industries over public health."—Laure Weiss

Lawn care pesticides can be safest.

"Public Citizen says exposure to 2,4-D (used in about 1,500 lawn care companies) may be linked to non-Hodgkins lymphoma in Kansas farmers, but the PLCCA said the EPA, Canadian government and WHO, as well as the National Cancer Institute and Technology found significant errors in methodology in testing.

"A走了 insecticides can cause a variety of nervous system effects, the report says, but those charges are based on lab experiments in which animals were "freely injected with lethal doses of chlorpyrifos and then revived with heroic measures," the scientists said.

"Public Citizen listed side effects linked to diazinon (an insecticide used in lawn sprays), and the AAA study said it "continues to be times when you are going to devastate courses. It's not just a few people's recreation; it's a huge industry that could be really damaged."

Snow said, "There are going to be times when you have to treat your woods. I'm not going to do everything they can do to make sure we're not going to have to go out and play golf if the golf courses dead... The industry would stop."

But Jim Snow of the USGA Green Section's Golf House said, "IPMs are not a major outbreak of insect, weed or disease. You can use it to a certain extent and it definitely will help. What it does really is organize you so that you do every thing that is possible to minimize stress or potential of our golfers and to predict when you should treat.

And pesticides are an integral part of IPM. IPM includes them in a more logical and curative way, rather than going out on a preventive program where you spray it, see if it sticks, and if it doesn't work that's it. It helps you so you can usually use fewer applications, and you probably time them better, but it doesn't exclude pesticides..."

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"The law the EPA is working under puts interests of pesticide and related industries over public health," Weiss said. "The risk-benefit analysis is the basis of the law that in itself requires EPA to balance risks and benefits. You've got a risk assessment counterbalanced by the benefits."

"The risk-benefit analysis isn't adequate because how can you do a fair risk assessment if you don't even know what exposure is? They're just guessing figures." Weiss said there should be "required practices for reducing or eliminating pesticide use."

One major step, she said, would be using IPMs.

Superintendents would be willing... do everything they could to (use) fewer pesticides.

—Jim Snow

Americans returns golf course to Korea

The return of a golf course to South Korea next year will mark the beginning of a relocation of a controversial U.S. military base from central Seoul, South Korea, to the countryside.

The base, home of the U.S. Eighth Army, has been a focus for anti-American sentiment in South Korea. The golf course is located on the 669-acre base in Yeouido, downriver from the Han River, and many South Koreans want the land to be maintained as a park.

But land prices in Seoul have been soaring and real-estate developers are very interested in the land.

JUNE 1989

Superfacility brings variety to Chicago

Tanguay-Burke-Stratton Comprehensive Real Estate Services has arranged a lease valued at $1.2 million for Chicago's first golf retail superstore and indoor golf facility at the Washington square building at 651 W. Washington Ave.

The 14,533-square-foot golf center—Pro Golf & Country Club—opened in May offering five 18-hour driving ranges, putting greens, three computerized 18-hole simulator machines, lessons from a staff of teaching pros, and a discount golf equipment and accessory store.

The store will have about 7,500 square feet, and the rest of the space will be set aside for golf instruction, a pro shop, Chicago Simulators and a lounge. Chicago Design Network designed the facility.

The computer-simulated golf machines use the latest technology so golfers can simulate play on such famous courses as Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach.

The store will open in May with 12 computerized 18-hole golf simulators, five individual driving ranges, practice, training, instruction, computer-simulated golf, and a lounge. Chicago Design Network designed the facility.

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