Survey: Supers applying fewer, safer pesticides

By Hal Phillips

More than 60 percent of golf course superintendents surveyed by the Gallup Organization indicated they have altered their maintenance practices compared to three years ago, citing pressure from government regulation, economic factors and environmental concerns.

The 1994 Sandoz National Environmental Poll, conducted by Gallup, contacted a random sample of 2,050 professionals who apply pest control products: farmers, roadside vegetation managers, lawn care workers, pest control operators, mosquito district managers and small animal veterinarians. This year's biennial survey included, for the first time, golf course superintendents.

Question: Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available?

Always — 70%
Sometimes — 27%
Never — 3%

Compared to three years ago, are you making fewer applications of pest control products?

Yes — 61%
No — 36%

Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available?

Always — 70%
Sometimes — 27%
Not Usually — 2%

Compared to three years ago, are you using things differently regarding use of pest control products?

Yes — 67%
No — 30%

Pesticide fate model may be inaccurate

By Dr. Mike Kenna

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Researchers here at the Georgia Agriculture Experiment Station have suggested that one of the mathematical models used by environmental regulators and scientists to predict the fate of pesticides will need a major overhaul before it accurately represents what happens on golf course turf.

"Results indicate that the GLEAMS (Groundwater Loading Effects of Agriculture Management Systems) mathematical model is commonly used to help identify chemical and soil properties, as well as plant and meteorological factors influencing the transport of similar businesses for insurance purposes have been authorized in 30 states, according to Charles Freutel, national sales manager with the Frank Gates Service Co., a research and benefits consulting firm. This grouping allows members to obtain lower workers' compensation rates than they could individually.

Golf course owners associations in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

Pooling results in huge workers' comp savings

By Peter Blais

Some Ohio course operators are enjoying an 85-per-cent reduction in their workers compensation insurance costs because of legislation passed in the Ohio general assembly and the efforts of the state's golf course owners association.

Bills authorizing the pooling of similar businesses for insurance purposes have been authorized in 30 states, according to Charles Freutel, national sales manager with the Frank Gates Service Co., a research and benefits consulting firm. This grouping allows members to obtain lower workers' compensation rates than they could individually.

Golf course owners associations in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.
Sandoz surveys pesticide applicators

Continued from page 1

Fifty-three percent of the superintendents surveyed said they didn't receive any complaints from the public, while 15 percent cited problems pertaining to odor.

You already know that Primo can reduce your fairway mowings by up to one-third.

But what you may not have considered is how fewer mowings can mean more free time for your crew to work on other projects. And it goes without saying that if you can get more done in less time, you save money. It's all possible with Primo for turf growth management.

Because Primo makes grass grow half as fast. And the cost of applying it is more than recouped by your lighter mowing schedule.

Contact your authorized Primo distributor or Ciba sales representative to learn more about how Primo can help you save time. Because, as they say, 'time is money.'

Question: What is the most common complaint you hear from your neighbors or customers relating to the use of pesticide products?

Fifty-three percent of the superintendents surveyed said they didn't receive any complaints, while 15 percent cited problems pertaining to odor. Nine percent of the golf course managers reported fielding complaints about worker safety, and 5 percent heard complaints regarding environmental safety.

More than 50 percent of all surveyed groups indicated they are dealing with more public concern over pest control and the environment, compared to five years ago. Farmers were the highest, at 80 percent. Yet about half of the respondents in all groups said their personal level of concern associated with pest control has also increased over the past five years. According to Cook, these are disturbing trends the chemical industry cannot afford to ignore.

“Honestly, I think some people in the industry — competitors included — get nervous about surveys like these,” said Cook. “Why? I'm not sure. In the agricultural community, it’s more exposed. Every time an issue is raised, it’s discussed publicly.

“In the golf course business, it seems to hit closer to home. Manufacturers don’t want to be quite as open about the issues at hand. We thought long and hard about doing the study [and including superintendents], but we thought it was the right thing to do.

“These issues are not going to go away.”

According to Max Larsen, executive vice president for Gallup in Lincoln, Neb.: "Respondents said that manufacturers and the government have primary responsibility to educate the public and fix safety and environmental problems.

“But they see themselves as partners in the process.”

Question: Do people in your industry always, sometimes, not usually or never follow labels closely?

A full 93 percent of superintendents polled answered "always," the highest figure for any of the seven groups. Farmers were lowest at 68 percent.

Cook said it cost Sandoz approximately $100,000 to conduct the poll. A minimum of 100 superintendents were among the 2,050 pesticide applicators contacted via the telephone — by the Gallup Organization. For more information on the survey and information about obtaining a copy, call Sandoz at 708-699-1616.

You already know that Primo can reduce your fairway mowings by up to one-third.

But what you may not have considered is how fewer mowings can mean more free time for your crew to work on other projects. And it goes without saying that if you can get more done in less time, you save money. It's all possible with Primo for turf growth management.

Because Primo makes grass grow half as fast. And the cost of applying it is more than recouped by your lighter mowing schedule.

Contact your authorized Primo distributor or Ciba sales representative to learn more about how Primo can help you save time. Because, as they say, 'time is money.'

Question: What is the most common complaint you hear from your neighbors or customers relating to the use of pesticide products?

Fifty-three percent of the superintendents surveyed said they didn't receive any complaints, while 15 percent cited problems pertaining to odor. Nine percent of the golf course managers reported fielding complaints about worker safety, and 5 percent heard complaints regarding environmental safety.

More than 50 percent of all surveyed groups indicated they are dealing with more public concern over pest control and the environment, compared to five years ago. Farmers were the highest, at 80 percent. Yet about half of the respondents in all groups said their personal level of concern associated with pest control has also increased over the past five years. According to Cook, these are disturbing trends the chemical industry cannot afford to ignore.

“Honestly, I think some people in the industry — competitors included — get nervous about surveys like these,” said Cook. “Why? I'm not sure. In the agricultural community, it’s more exposed. Every time an issue is raised, it’s discussed publicly.

“In the golf course business, it seems to hit closer to home. Manufacturers don’t want to be quite as open about the issues at hand. We thought long and hard about doing the study [and including superintendents], but we thought it was the right thing to do.

“These issues are not going to go away.”

According to Max Larsen, executive vice president for Gallup in Lincoln, Neb.: "Respondents said that manufacturers and the government have primary responsibility to educate the public and fix safety and environmental problems.

“But they see themselves as partners in the process.”

Question: Do people in your industry always, sometimes, not usually or never follow labels closely?

A full 93 percent of superintendents polled answered "always," the highest figure for any of the seven groups. Farmers were lowest at 68 percent.

Cook said it cost Sandoz approximately $100,000 to conduct the poll. A minimum of 100 superintendents were among the 2,050 pesticide applicators contacted via the telephone — by the Gallup Organization. For more information on the survey and information about obtaining a copy, call Sandoz at 708-699-1616.