

# Golf Courses Show Strong Compliance With Pesticide Regulations in GCSAA Survey

About 97 percent of U.S. golf courses that employ members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) have at least one licensed pesticide applicator on staff, according to the findings of a recent survey.

To address concerns about pesticide use, GCSAA recently conducted the survey to gauge the degree of compliance with federal and state pesticide applicator regulations among professional golf course superintendents.

"These results provide strong evidence of our members' commitment to safety and sound ecological practices," said Tom Akins, GCSAA government relations manager.

"GCSAA strongly supports the position that only properly trained and educated personnel should be allowed to purchase and apply restricted-use chemicals," Akins said. "Even though most golf courses don't apply any restricted-use materials, we are pleased that the survey shows that an overwhelming majority of our membership has taken this extra step. This supports our long-held belief that golf course superintendents are among the best educated and most thoughtful users of agricultural chemicals in the country."

Of the 1,157 superintendents who responded to the GCSAA survey, 1,061, or about 92 percent, hold valid pesticide applicator licenses for the state where they work. Another five percent who are not licensed themselves have someone on their staff who is licensed.

Certification for pesticide application is done in compliance

with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Section 3 of FIFRA states that any pesticide classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "for restricted use only" must be applied by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. It is up to each state to implement its own certification guidelines and programs as long as they comply with FIFRA.

"The importance of training and certification to individual communities really ties in to the concept of 'Think globally—act locally,'" said Akins. "The survey showed that individual superintendents take seriously their commitment to the environment and are working hard in communities throughout the U.S. to make sure that their operations are as safe as possible."

## ABOUT THE COVER

The weather outside wasn't frightful, but it couldn't claim to be delightful. However, MGCSA did have a top-notch get-together at Owatonna Country Club on April 16. One big question was where Greg Hubbard's tee shot went in the top cover photo. The congenial hosts at this session were, from left on the cover, Randy Nelson, CGCS, Assistant Gene Griffith and mechanic Scott Bjorge. (See additional photos on Page 13.)

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