

Expert Panel Meets to Discuss Pesticide Exposure Study

A distinguished committee of industry and university research experts met recently at the headquarters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to discuss possible studies examining the issue of pesticide exposure and its effects.

Participants on the committee that met in early October were Dr. Aaron Blair, Occupational Safety Division, National Institutes of Health; Dr. Jerry Blondell, health statistician, Health Effects Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Bill Culpepper, director, Government, Public and Industry Affairs, DowElanco Specialty Products; Mike Scott, public liaison officer, EPA; Dr. Lorann Stallones, Dept. of Environmental Health, Colorado State University; and Steve Titko, environmental adviser, The O.M. Scott & Sons Co.

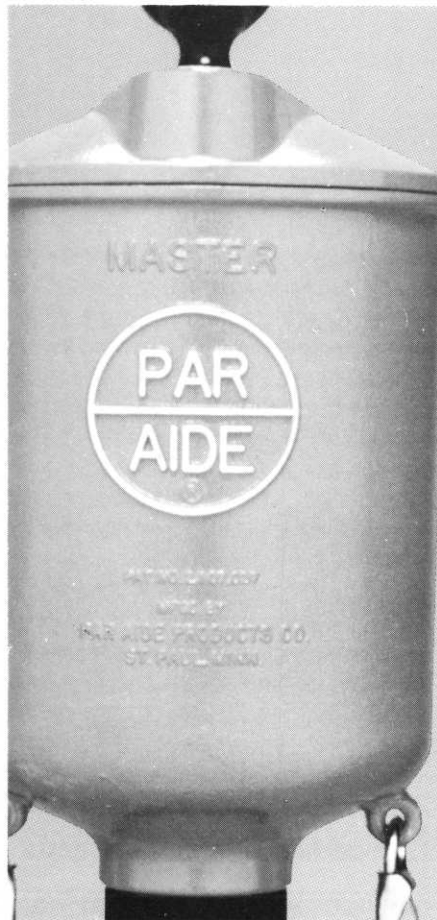
GCSAA representatives at the meeting included GCSAA President William R. Roberts, CGCS; General Counsel Robert D. Ochs; Director of Development Pat Jones, and *Golf Course Management* Technical Editor Dr. Jeff Nus.

The government, media and public have expressed concerns about the potential for adverse health effects caused by exposure to the pesticides used on golf courses. Because turfgrass pesticides are perceived by some people to be used only for aesthetic purposes, critics suggest that they pose an unacceptable health threat with little benefit to offset the risk.

GCSAA held this meeting to discuss the feasibility of sponsoring studies on human exposure to pesticides through its Scholarship & Research program. Such studies would be utilized to document worker safety, address public concern about pesticide exposure, and guide GCSAA education and research programs.

"The golf community, led by GCSAA, has maintained an open and positive approach to addressing ecological and health concerns," said Roberts. "This approach stresses professional education for superintendents and applicators, cooperation with regulatory agencies and increased scientific research."

GCSAA is completing its summaries of the meeting for presentation to the association's board of directors, who will decide later this fall which studies to undertake.



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Pesticide Reporting Proposal Sent to Reilly

A proposed rule designed to clarify manufacturers reporting requirements on the potential adverse effects of pesticide products has been sent to EPA Administrator William Reilly for final approval.

The proposed regulation would codify the continuing duties that pesticide registrants have under FIFRA to report information about possible unreasonable adverse effects of their products.

The proposed FIFRA rule has cleared the White House Office of Management and Budget routine review.

However, the rule still needs to gain an exemption by OMB from the regulatory moratorium, agency officials say.

President Bush announced a 90-day moratorium in January. He extended it in late April for 120 days and announced in late August that he would extend it for a year.

OMB has informed EPA that the rule is exempt from the moratorium, although OMB has not made public its reasons for exempting the rule.

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