

Nutrient Management Laws

by Ryland Chapman

On June 4th, MAGI held an educational meeting for 50 people within the Green Industry. The topic of discussion was Nutrient Management and School Pesticide Notification Laws and how these will affect golf course superintendents.

The meeting was held in the Maryland Department of Agriculture(MDA) building in Annapolis Maryland. The purpose of this educational meeting was to bring a small group of individuals within the Green Industry up to speed on the most recent laws. Then, in turn, spread the word to the rest of the community to what is going to happen to their business. MAGI felt there was no better way than having representatives of MDA be guest speakers to clarify the new rules and regulations addressed in State Bill 17B. Present from the Golf Industry were Mike Gilmore (Turf Valley Resort & Conference Center), Lou Rudinski (Anne Arundel County Recreation), Joe Perry (Eagle's Landing Golf Course, Ben Stagg (Keen Consulting), Steve Potter (Woodholme Country Club), John Shields (Glen Dale Country Club), and Ryland Chapman (Fairway Hills Golf Course).

Mark Schlossberg, president of MAGI, coordinated and conducted the three hour meeting. The speakers of the day were Mr. Dennis Howard, Mr. Fred Samadani, and Ms. Louise Lawrence. Mr. Howard covered the laws pertaining to School Pesticide Notification Laws. Mr. Samadani and Ms. Lawrence addressed the issues revolving around the Nutrient Management Laws. Mr. Samadani and Ms. Lawrence, employees of the research and conservation department, are working with the State, members of the subcommittees and the University of Maryland Co-operative Extension Service on the Nutrient Management Laws. They also invited people to join the subcommittees to help draft rules and regulations for the Nutrient Management Laws.

Lou Rudinski and Ryland Chapman, as MAAGCS representatives, attended the first and second subcommittee meetings on June 30th and July 9th. These subcommittee meetings dealt with the Nutrient Management Laws. Golf courses were not on the agenda for these subcommittee meetings

but representatives needed to be present to understand their direction and let the committees know that superintendents are very interested in what is going to happen to the Green Industry as a whole, especially in our own backyard. The farmers were the topic of discussion and they are in for a real treat. Individuals with agricultural land have to have a Nutrient Management plan for their land prepared by a Certified Nutrient Management Consultant (CNMC). Individuals applying nutrients to that land must be licensed, certified, in possession of an applicator certificate from the Department of Agriculture, or must work for a person who meets one of these criteria. Plus, these individuals have to renew their certificate every three years with three hours of educational requirements by the department. This is only a brief overview for agriculture land.

An individual who applies nutrients for hire to land for agricultural purpose shall: (1) be a nutrient management consultant certified by the Department of Agriculture or work under the supervision of such a person; (2) make available documentation, in the form of a certificate, work order, or other similar documents, to the landowner or manager, that the applicator possesses or is working under such a certificate. The MDA has not discussed individuals who apply nutrients for hire to land used for non-agricultural purposes.

As non-agricultural land managers, golf course superintendents will fall under the recommendations of the University of Maryland's Co-operative Extension Service. A meeting has been set with Dr. Tom Turner, who is currently working on recommendations for Golf Courses and Lawn Care. The next meetings are on July 21st and August 4th will be covering the Green Industry. The meeting with Dr. Turner will be prior to these two meetings. We want to be well prepared for these meetings because we are not taking these laws lightly. Some of the fines for violations will be \$1,000 for first violation and \$2,000 for each subsequent violation. When the results of these subcommittee meetings are available they will be passed on to the MAAGCS membership. Ryland Chapman will be able to address your questions concerning these issues.

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