

EXPERIENCES WITH 2,4-D AND STUDENT OPINION ON CAMPUS

Ron Foote and Gary Parrott
Grounds Maintenance Department, M.S.U.

Public and students called the department with some concerns of what pesticides we were using. They wanted to know what kinds of pesticides we were using, why they were being used, where they were being used and how much material was being applied.

Information was made available from safety data sheets and names of persons that specialized in these chemical make-ups. Best and most positive effect came from our local health department giving information to them.

Applicators wearing protective clothing and color of the pesticide seemed to have a very alarming effect.

Employees became very aware of their own safety. The union became involved with requests for training and testing for employees.

The department was already having training sessions conducted by persons with the university system, outside sources from chemical companies and special training sources. Our people were certified by the State of Michigan. We felt that the studying and information gained from the exam would be a good tool for training.

We wanted our applicators to be aware of public concerns so they would answer questions about what pesticide they were using, rates, target pests, and why. The correct response from an applicator is a very important public information tool.

Other than regular campus areas that the department maintains, there are three large married housing complexes. Concerns that are encountered here are effects on children, small flowers, and vegetable gardens and pets. The department works with the University Housing Department to inform residents of our pesticide applications. Depending on hesitation from groups of people in the area, considerations are taken and at times they may not be sprayed. Persons that want use of pesticides and persons that do not want pesticides applied are often interviewed.

Concerns of a caring public need to be addressed. Information must be delivered effectively and openly for their health and environmental impact concern. Providing this information will enable us to keep the necessary tools while performing services needed to maintain a pleasing environment