

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

DR. RICHARD CATON Keynote Speaker, Turf Conference

- As far as most people are concerned pesticides are toxic. Biological controls still 5-10 years away. Nematodes eating flesh etc. Where do they stop and start. Have to think of pesticides at protection and use I.P.M. (integrated) pest management) systems. Environmental groups are unhappy and would like to see changes.
- Talked about need for irrigation systems that are more related to water conservation. Too many systems still putting out water after heavy rains. Where there is no need, cited the need for drainage and used the example of John Harper Professor Emeritus, Penn State University who said there are three things an athletic field needs;
 - 1) drainage,
 - 2) drainage,
 - 3) drainage.Fine to have a crowned field but still needs under drainage.
- Exhorted and pleaded with delegates to listen and observe to get as much out of their day at conference.

BOB MILLER Pesticide Control Officer MOE

- Changes in Posting - Remove "Keep Off" from sign just a logo

perhaps to indicate hazard.

- Also new regulations where each person spraying will need a licence.
- New regulations are chemical storage materials stored to counteract spills. No drains in storage to go into sewer system.

RON ANGUS Pesticide Toxicology Use & Precautions

- Outlined 2 good books one on occupational health, 2nd put out by Workman's Compensation Board in B.C. entitled "Standard Practices for Pesticide Applicators". This costs \$10 plus mailing. Write to Workman's Compensation Board, B.C. Films & Posters Division, Box 5350, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 5L5.
- Stated there are 4,000 pesticide formulations.
- Discussed organic pest types - which included target areas, types of formulations and the chemical families of the active ingredients.
- Then spoke on toxic mechanisms - physical/chemical and physiological. The toxic agent acts on the body, body acts on toxic agent. There is a damage/repair balance v.s. no threshold limit.
Physical - irritants, asphyxiants, absorption, radioactivity.

Chemical - direct combination e.g. co. indirect combination and then chelatum - A bond to physiologic active metals.
Physiologic - enzyme induction - oxygen - CO₂ exchange, body heat generation, nerve impulses, excretion of body wastes, blood clotting and tumogenesis.

RICHARD STANDISH Non-use of pesticides

An excellent presentation. Had slides which showed the degeneration of parks and particularly athletic fields. Stopped spraying on 1978 one of the first municipalities to do so. In 1981 City of Ottawa then resumed spraying of 24D where necessary for weed control. Much advertising was done to let people know. Consequently upwards of 30 people would picket the park or football field and crews were unable to apply material. In 1982 concerns were raised again from child care centres and the Labour Council and signs were posted indicating area to be sprayed. In 1983 a 2-year ban was put in place. A report was then presented to Council on all park sites involved as to

- a) amount of land involved
- b) current weed cover
- c) areas chemically controlled in 1982
- d) current weed cover of treated v.s. untreated areas.

Then in 1990 a proposal was put forth by the Environmental Advisory Committee to "declare City of Ottawa a pes-

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ticide free city". In this same year all pesticides were discontinued in the tree maintenance program and only insecticidal soaps are used now. Instituted a leaf pickup program all leaves were bagged. Took a six person crew 3 months to dump all the bags. Now different pickup method and leaves are turned with a front end loader from November until August twice weekly then run through a Royer Shredder. All this part of a recommendation as to alternative methods for maintenance of turf including aeration, mowing, overseeding, and topdressing, all parks topdressed once a year. Temperature of leaf compost kept between 140-160°F. Problem in winter because heat keeps frost out of ground. Very muddy all in all Ottawa only has green space no turf in parks. Many complaints particularly from homeowners and people with allergies worst time of year when dandelions in flower and seed spring and fall. Athletic fields receive a lot of use and are not in good shape.

DR. RICHARD CATON Turf Conference *Mowing Heights: Myth v.s. Reality*

- Stated coaches' perceptions of turf cut too high:
 - a) impedes speed of the athlete,
 - b) hinders traction,
 - c) impedes ball roll,
 - d) has an impact on the event.
- Tobias Grether Study at California Tech. in California indicated that of 10 different areas studied there was no difference in speed of the athlete as far as different varieties of grass and different heights of cut. Grass was cut every day few people can tell difference, if turf has a well groomed look. If you increase height of cut you have more leaf area, more buds and greater root development hence greater sod strength. Choices are turf survival, too short turf thins out, more overseeding, more expensive. We have to demonstrate the integrity of keeping turf at an optimum height.

BASEBALL

Guelph Mercury
Dec. 26/90

Bases May Prevent Injuries

Ann Arbor, Mich (AP) - Baseball bases that break free on impact would prevent 1.7 million injuries annually and save \$2 billion US a year in medical costs if used everywhere in the United States, a study says.

"Recreational sports injuries are expensive to families, employers and the entire community," said Dr. David Janda, director of the non-profit Institute for Preventive Sports Medicine.

Forty million Americans are estimated to play softball. Breakaway bases, attached to rubber grommets set in the ground, release on impact, unlike conventional bases.

BROCHURE IS OFFERED

Landscape Management
Dec. 1990

Dr. Bruce Augustin and Art Wick of Lesco, Inc. have authored a new brochure entitled "Athletic Field Turf Maintenance Handbook". The 12-page brochure gives specifications for a variety of athletic fields. To receive a copy, call the Sports Turf Managers Association at (702)739-8052 or Lesco at (800)825-3726.

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