

THRU THE GREEN

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OUR OBJECTIVE: The collection, preservation, and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge and to promote the efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses. Information contained in this publication may be used freely, in whole or in part, without special permission as long as the true context is maintained. We would appreciate a credit line.



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The results are in, the proposed amendments to articles and bylaws of the GCSAA were defeated by an almost three to one vote. This corresponded approximately to the vote from the Northern California Chapter. The only amendment to pass changed the third Article of Incorporation to read "To advance the art and science of turfgrass management; to collect and disseminate knowledge of golf course management with emphasis on efficient, economic and environmentally sound management of golf courses. The addition of the latter phase is 'politically correct' in the world today and also a good idea.

The recent election illustrates a classic case of poor communication and trying to change too much at once. The question arises, is the board to blame for this disaster or the committee that recommended them? Was the board overly influenced by staff interested including one of our finest, Charles Passios, were defeated for reelection due to their support of the amendments.

Pesticide labels are are changing to include more specific language regarding reentry on treated areas. Case in point, my favorite fungicide, which will go unnamed, used to control pythium changed its label. No fanfare or special notice, just a new reentry statement to comply with is as follows; "if entering into the treated area within 24 hours of application to perform hand labor tasks wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, shoes, socks, chemical/water resistant gloves, goggles or face shield. Do not apply this product in such a manner as to directly or through drift expose workers or other persons. The area being treated must be vacated by unprotected persons." Question, how well can a person putt wearing rubber gloves and goggles?

I showed the new label to the local county agricultural inspector and we agreed the label would restrict golfers from a green for 24 hours. Next I went to the National and asked the company representatives about the new label and its impact for use on golf courses. They weren't aware of the changes, when I pointed it out to them they tried to tell me I was interpreting the label incorrectly. I told them it wasn't only my interpretation but my local agricultural inspectors also. The light went on, they finally realized they had a problem. The next day after some hurried communications I was assured a label would be prepared specifically for golf courses which would amend the restrictions listed on the current label. That may be easier said than done.

The point of this story is to emphasize that current laws and regulations regarding the use of pesticides are changing. The fact that you have been using a particular chemical for years with no problems does not mean you do not have to be careful. Read the label and make sure it is up to date. Pay particular attention to the reentry statements, the language is becoming much more stringent and restrictive.

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