

THRU THE GREEN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Test
Is A Dinosaur

Is it time to change? The "test" the Association gives to attain class A status is an outdated dinosaur. I can remember several occasions when the board has had lengthy discussions regarding this issue. We have approached both the pros and the cons. Some of these thoughts are: GCSAA does

not require testing for class A status, the requirement of three years experience as a golf course superintendent is in itself a sufficient test as to ones qualifications and abilities. Some of those who have been around awhile might say "Yes, I took and passed the test. If you eliminate it now, what about my efforts. Are they forgotten?"

The GCSAA certification program is adequate separation for those who wish to be elevated from the pack, so to

speak. We are the only association in the state which has a test. Then there are those who might say, "We have been doing this for years, why change it?"

Yes, it is obvious the test is a dinosaur. I would expect, unless we are inundated by your response, there shall be a change expected.

Please check the classified ads in this newsletter.

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai, CGCS
President

LAWS & REGS

Continued from page 1

been made recently regarding golf course pesticide use. Included were comments such as, "Golf courses use nearly seven times the amount of pesticides applied on agricultural land." Mr. Bergman, as do the rest of us, finds these types of statements outlandish. His concern, which as an industry we should share, is that there is no means of determining the actual pesticide use on golf courses in California, making these statements difficult to refute. His suggestion was to actively pursue, with the Department of Pesticide Regulation, a separate code for golf courses. Golf course pesticide use could then be separated from other landscape uses. This concept potentially has a great deal of merit and warrants further exploration.

Glenda Dugan, a Life Scientist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, provided a summary of the re-registration process currently being conducted by the EPA. Presently three commonly used turfgrass chemicals have been re-registered. These include Aliette, Roundup and Subdue. Ms. Dugan stated the majority of products used by the golf course industry will be reviewed by 1998. There is concern that chemical manufacturers may choose not to re-register products currently labeled for turf use, the deterrent being the expense associated with developing the scientific

data required for re-registration. In simple terms, this may mean fewer pesticide options in the future. Perhaps all the more reason to be re-tooling your pest management strategy.

John Donahue from Cal-EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation outlined the procedures involved in the event an employee sustains a pesticide-related injury at work. In short, expect an investigation from your Agricultural Commissioner's office of both the incident and your entire pesticide operation, including storage practices and training records.

Mr. Donahue also touched on the new Worker Protection Standards presently not affecting our industry. The standards are designed to protect the safety of workers in environments where pesticides are applied. Some of the new legislation increases the requirements for re-entry intervals, personal protective equipment and notification. The application of the new standards to golf course operations appears to apply only to the production of sod or landscape materials grown for sale, which would have little, if any impact on our industry.

Worker protection legislation is worth keeping an eye on, however. It is very possible that sometime in the future legislation could be expanded to include golf courses, particularly if we do not act to improve our tarnished image.