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THRU THE GREEN

MARCH 1993



EDITOR JEAN LADUC 1356 Munro Avenue Campbell, CA 95008

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It won't be long and I will be able to turn this job over to my successor, the new President of the Association, I'm counting the days. I will admit that my term has been enjoyable and thanks to the rest of the board and Barbara Mikel everything has run quite well. I am looking forward to hosting the annual meeting at Diablo Creek G.C. on April 21. It will be a shotgun start at 1:00 pm and the more the merrier so I hope you plan on attending.

I have spent the last three months beating the bushes for candidates to run for positions on the board. Candidates for the board are a very elusive prey. Tough critters to corner. I know that everybody in this business has a lot of responsibility, too little time and an ogre for a greens chairman but, please make a promise to yourself that someday you will say yes. You will find the experience rewarding and have the opportunity to influence the perception and the reality of our profession.

I would also like to remind the Affiliate Members of the new format for the Annual Meeting. For the first time the representative to the board from the Affiliate Members will be elected rather than appointed. The election will take place during the concurrent affiliates meeting on April 21st. No formal candidates have been announced and nominations from the floor are required. The term will be for two years and we promise to work you to death, so give it some consideration and take one step forward. My only regret during my term is my failure to revise the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Association. The original Constitution and By-Laws were adopted in 1932 and amended 1972, 1987 and 1990. It is as they say about constitutions a "living document" with specific rules and a formal method for change. It was my intention to present to the membership some proposed changes at the annual meeting. Well to make a long story short I didn't get it done in a timely manner. After witnessing the disaster with the proposed changes to the GCSAA where large changes were requested with insufficient communication maybe a go slow approach is the way to go.

I have a problem with some of our classification requirements which I feel are too restrictive. For instance, is it really necessary to require a certified superintendent to take our Class A exam to become a Class A in our organization? Or should a superintendent who has hosted an Open or Ryder Cup be required to take our exam? I don't think what is the point? Most other chapters and National assume we have all passed numerous tests or we wouldn't have the job to begin with. I would hope we can begin a process which would result in some changes to our Constitution and By-Laws. Give it some thought, read them, they are located in every Membership Directory, let me know what you think.

Rod







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(con't from page 1)

*Cobalt. Eastern bracken, horsetail, vetch.

*Copper. Coltsfoot, dandelion, eastern braken, plantain, purslane, silverweed, sow thistle, stinging nettle, vetch.

*Fluorine. Garlic, watercress.

*Iodine. Bladderwrack, burdock, Canada thistle, coltsfoot, creeping thistle, dandelion,devil'-bit, dock, eastern bracken, nodding thistle, plantain, redroot pigweed, Russian thistle, stinging nettle, toadflax, watercress.

*Magnesium. Bladderwrack, coltsfoot, dandelion, devil'sbit, horsetail, sow thistle, toadflax, watercress.

*Manganese. Chickweed, eastern bracken, lamb's-quarters.

itrogen. Cattail, lamb's-quarters, stinging

*Phosphorus. Chickweed, clover, dandelion, dock, eastern bracken, garden sorrel, garlic, German chamomile, lamb's-quarters, purslane, redroot pigweed, sheep sorrel, vetch, watercress.





***Potassium.** Chickweed, chicory, coltsfoot, corn chamomile, creeping thistle, dandelion, dock, eastern bracken, German chamomile, lamb's-quarters, plantain, redroot pigweed. silverweed, sow thistle, stinging nettle, tansy, vetch, watercress.

*Silica. Dandelion, horsetail, plantain, valerian.

***Sodium.** Dandelion, garden sorrel, sheep sorrel, stinging nettle, shepherd's-purse, watercress.

*Sulfur. Coltsfoot, garlic, plantain, shepherd's-purse, stinging nettle, watercress.

Before looking to your weeds as divining rods, remember that, in Kourik's words, "one individual plant says nothing." Others who have studied weeds and their relationships to the soil echo his observation that individual plants can grow in atypical situations and many species tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. If your weeds are sickly and undersized, they're probably not growing in a favorable habitat.

But healthy, lush plant communities-more than one plant of a single species along with other indicator plants-may be a useful signal of soil type, Kourik says. "It's pretty clear when you see a good stand of dock that the area gets flooded during the year," he says. "Basically, if you've got dock, don't plant your vegetables there." But weeds, he added, "can't replace a soil test."

Article seen in American Horticulturist, March 1993.

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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

In February 1993 Thru The Green, the article on "An Exercise in Irrigation Programming" where the article is talking about reducing the total flow from the pump⁻ station by 312 GPM, the paragraph should read:

You should be able to accomplish this fairly easily by making sure that you never run a series of programs where all operating controllers will be activating two sprinklers at any given moment. This may be accomplished by activating greens and tees programs on some controllers while fairways and roughs are operating elsewhere on the course.

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TURFGRASS PGRS NEAR WIDESPREAD USE

Turfgrass plant growth regulators (PGRs) are in theory a great idea. They may perform well in the laboratory, but when put to the test in commercial landscape maintenance, they can become unpredictable and produce undesirable results, especially in fine turf situations.

PGRs have been around for at least two decades, either under testing or as registered products.

Most of the registered materials are used in niche markets or for large low-maintenance areas like roadsides, airfields, levees, stream banks and golf course roughs.

In reality commercial PGRs have not gained truly widespread use in fine turf maintenance.

But, that may be changing with a new class of PGR chemistry. The first one to reach the commercial market is likely to be a product from Ciba-Geigy, Primo. What makes it different from the rest is that it is foliar absorbed (other PGRs are activated through the soil).

"There has been alot of interest in PGRs over the years and some of them have enjoyed what I would call specialty market success, but for the general landscape market there has not been a truly effective, reliable fine turf plant growth regulator for general use," says Dave Hanson of San Jose, Calif., manager of technical support for Environmental Care's maintenance operations in seven states.

"Most turfgrass stands are a mixture of grasses and weeds, and PGRs react differently on different grass and weed species. The result is uneven response," says Hanson, former University of California extension ornamental horticulture farm advisor and a 24-year veteran of the green industry.

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"There has been alot of promise and a lot of fascination with PGRs over the years, but all of those who have worked with these compounds agree that the problem has been that every conceivable parameter of a plant's growth affects the way PGRs work...age of the plant, cultivar, temperature, soil type and every other thing you can imagine. Most pesticide products are one dimensional in their effect. PGRs are not," says Bruce Kidd, Western area turf and ornamental specialist for DowElanco based in Clovis, Calif.

DowElanco markets a PGR, Cutless, which Kidd says performs "superbly" on cool-season grasses in the Northeast. "It results in excellent quality bentgrass and reduces poa annua, but it fails to produce the same results on most warm-season grasses, and we really do not know why. Rather than provide good plant growth regulation and improved plant quality, you get burn."

Plant growth regulators work best where environmental conditions can be precisely controlled, like a greenhouse or perhaps on a golf course with a mono-stand of turfgrass.

"PGRs have looked good in certain niche situations, but none has been able to gain a broad market," says Kidd, who is a former commercial landscape maintenance contractor.

Kidd admits Primo is a "different kind of plant growth regulator" because of its foliar absorption actions. "Primo has looked goodprobably better than most other PGRs in university tests. The real challenge will come when it is put under commercial customer-use conditions," he says.

Ciba-Geigy is expecting federal Environmental Protection Agency approval for unrestricted use this year. The company

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hopes a California label will follow. It has been tested under an Experimental Use Permit.

Researchers have found Primo use reduces biomass 40 to 50 percent over a six or seven week period and enhances root development of the turfgrass without any adverse effects.

Hanson has been testing it and other new PGRs for several years.

"There is not as much discoloration and injury with this new chemistry, and results are more consistent." says Hanson. "Not only has the chemistry evolved, but I think the industry is a little more sophisticated in doing a better job of using these new products. I think we have reached the next level in the evolution of PGRs.

"We are reaching the threshold of widespread PGR use on turfgrass," he predicts.

Primo, says Hanson, has a broad spectrum adaptability across both warm-and cool season grasses with relatively minor discoloration. "We are working on making that, which is always a prime concern when you look at PGRs."

Primo's activity on the plant can be reversed with heavy water and fertilizer use.

That masking effort and the countless hours Hanson puts in evaluating PGRs is justified because of the tremendous economic benefits these products offer.

"PGRs should be viewed as labor-saving tools just like more efficient mowers, better edgers or controlled release fertilizers. There are so many places where there are intensive turfgrass maintenance practices-lawn edging, edging around headstones in cemeteries, large expanses of fairly uniform, rapidly growing



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turf that is mowed quite frequently in the summer and objectionable seed head production-where these products could save a tremendous amount of labor by slowing down turf vertical and lateral growth," Hanson says.

Besides labor, there are also the issues of increasing dump fees for clippings, wear and tear on equipment both to mow and edge and haul clippings to the landfills.

Despite somewhat less than resounding successes in developing PGRs, major chemical companies continue to research the subject. "Some very big companies like Scott, DowElanco, CibaGeigy and others continue to believe there is a big commercial potential in PGRs, and they are correct," says Hanson. "Those of us in the commercial landscape maintenance business continue to face escalating costs and increasing competition while being challenged by our customers to produce a high quality product at lower costs.

must continue exploring the area of plant growth regulators to gain the benefits they offer."



Hanson says today's new generation of PGRs has an average effectiveness period of six weeks, "but that does not mean you can stop mowing for six weeks. It means you may be able to skip every other mowing or mow every three weeks."

Hanson warns that use of a turfgrass plant growth regulator puts the plants under a certain amount of stress and inappropriate sequential applications could well have an adverse effect. "It's critical to know the product and site you are working with.

"The cardinal sin in using these compounds is applying them when a plant is under stress. One of the problems we had in the early days in using PGRs on bluegrass in the San Francisco Bay area was that when you used a PGR on stressed turf, it resulted in a rust infestation, and the grass turned orange."

While the new chemistry offers more hope for a widely adaptable PGR, Hanson says they still should be used "only at the right place at the right time."

"And, evaluation must include cost. There must be a cost-benefit study on each site. It may not be financially feasible to use PGRs on some sites. It may be cheaper to mow more often."

Article seen in Western Turf Management, February 1993 by Harry Cline.

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ENTRY RESTRICTED

EPA The federal is implementing a wide-ranging set of regulations that will mean significant changes in the way pesticides are handled in California, including strict reentry rules

Sweeping new pesticide regulations by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will affect all workers and handlers who use farm chemicals in California.

The EPA'S Worker Protection Standards (WPS) for agricultural pesticides and protective gear. They cover anyone who handles pesticides on the nation's farms, nurseries, greenhouses and forests.

Although livestock and post-harvest pesticide uses are exempt, Cal-EPA standards protect all handlers.

Implementation of the new standards will be phased in, up to full enforcement by April 15, 1994. co-operating agencies will distribute information on the new regulations until that date.

Revised labels, appearing as soon as April 21 of this year and before April 21, 1994, will specify restricted entry intervals (REIs). In most situations, workers will not be allowed in a treated area during the REI period.

The REI "until sprays have dried, and dusts have settled" regulation has been replaced by intervals generally ranging from 12 to 72 hours. Growers should check with county agricultural commissioners for cases of longer Cal-EPA reentry intervals.

Manufacturers must upgrade labels to identify the appropriate respirator, if needed, and disclose if the product inhibits chlorinesterase. Employers must guarantee handler access to the label, and assure the handler has read it, or has been informed of safety precautions, before use.

Handlers of products labeled with the skull and crossbones symbol must be monitored every 2 hours.

Pesticide labels will include toxicity "signal words" in English and Spanish. The Spanish portion informs workers who do not understand the label to contact someone who does.

During any farm pesticide application, the employer can't allow anyone except an appropriately trained and equipped handler to be in the treated area.

To avoid inadvertent exposures, workers must be notified of any pesticide application on the establishment. If both posting of treated areas and oral notification is required, the employer must do both. Otherwise, the employer must give notice either orally or by posting signs, and tell workers which procedure is used.

Oral notification includes describing the treated area's location, the time when entry is restricted, and instructions not to enter that area until the REI has ended.

Notice isn't needed if an outdoor employer can assure workers on foot won't be in or within 1/4 mile of the treated area, or the worker who applied the pesticide has been instructed not to enter the treated area during the REI. The new standard also has rules for notification between growers and commercial pest control operators and advisors.



The information must include a federal EPA safety poster and specific data about pesticide applications.

It must also include the location and a description of the treated area. The product name, EPA registration number and active ingredients must be posted.

In addition, the WPS calls for notification of the time and date the pesticide is to be applied. The REI for the pesticide and the name, address and telephone number of the nearest emergency medical care facility must also be include

Affected employees must be informed of the location of this information and allowed access. Information must remain legible.

The specific pesticide information must be posted before application if workers will be on the establishment during application,. Otherwise the information must be posted at the the beginning of any worker's first work period. The information must stay posted at least 30 days after the REI, (or if there's no REI, for at least 30 days after application) or until workers are no longer on the establishment, whichever's sooner.

Handler employers must assure handlers are trained in safe use of equipment, and that handling equipment is inspected before each day of use. Damaged equipment must repaired or replaced.



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Handler employers must assure either that pesticide residues are removed from equipment before servicing, or that the handler performing the welding or other maintenance is informed that the equipment may be contaminated with pesticides, the potentially harmful effects of exposure, and correct equipment handling procedures.

General pesticide safety information must be presented in a way from written materials or audiovisually. Presenters must respond to workers' questions. Certified applicators and other qualified trainers will be able to issue EPA approved certificates, good for five years on any establishment.

Cal-EPA's requirement for written, continually updated, pesticide specific training for handlers, repeated at least annually, is more stringent than the federal standard. Although Cal-EPA requires no formal training field workers, they are protected under ker-safety protective laws. Last year, California's county agricultural commissioners conducted 2,993 field worker safety inspections, finding only 640 noncompliances, for which total penalties assesed were \$8,905.

Article by Steve Sutter, UC Area Personnel Management Farm Advisor for Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties. Article seen in California Farmer, February 1993.

April 21	Diablo Creek Golf Course
May 10	Rossmoor Golf Course
June 13,14	CGCSA Meeting
July 12	Supt./Pro Brookside CC
August	Open
September	Windsor Golf Club
October	Joint meeting with Sierra-Nevada
November	Institute
December	Christmas Party

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