

PESTICIDES are an important management tool for greenkeepers, their use is now taken for granted and is an integral part of the management of the modern golf course. However, two recent pieces of legislation have had and will continue to have a significant effect on the use of pesticides on the golf course. An understanding of the requirements of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, especially The Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 and The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) is an essential requirement for any professional greenkeeper. For those still unfamiliar with the requirements of the Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986, a very useful guide is "The Plain Mans Guide to the Pesticide Regulations" which is available free from the British Agrochemicals Association at 4 Lincoln Court, Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RP. The same organisation have recently published a similar guide to COSHH titled "The COSHH Assessment - A Plain Mans Guide for the Amenity User".

FEPa AND THE GREENKEEPER

Within the law there is a general obligation for ALL pesticide users to "take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants, to safeguard the environment . . .". Pesticide users should be aware that the manufacturers label has legal status and there is an obligation on all users to follow the label recommendations. The single most important piece of advice that a manufacturer can give to a user is **READ, UNDERSTAND and FOLLOW THE LABEL RECOMMENDATIONS**. If there is any doubt about the label recommendations discuss this with your supplier or the manufacturer.

A large number of users require a Certificate of Competence: contractors (a term which also applies to an operator offering a "free" service or doing a favour), all users born after 31st December 1964 (NB any trainee or apprentice greenkeepers), and anyone supervising uncertified users in these preceding categories.

A user requiring "certification" does not have to attend any training course before attending an examination. However, to be confident of success the user should attend a recognised training course. These courses can be arranged with the Agricultural Training Board, local agricultural colleges, other independent organisations or by experienced "in-house" staff (who will ideally have attended an ATB instructor's course).

The NPTC syllabus, which now encompasses the new COSHH regulations, is divided up into a modular format. Each candidate has to sit the Foundation Module before he can proceed to the pesticide application modules. The Foundation Module encompasses the safety aspects of pesticide legislation, mixing of concentrates, protective clothing, and most importantly the reading and understanding of the manufacturers label.

Plain man's guide to pesticides

Other areas covered in the foundation module are as follows: keeping records, disposal of unwanted pesticides and washings, dealing with contamination, environmental factors, storage of pesticides.

Having passed the Foundation module the candidate can then proceed to the application modules which qualify the user for a range of different methods of application. The application modules range from Ground Crop Sprayer to seed treating equipment to Hand Held Applicators (granules). There are up to 21 different application modules. Some of the modules will cover the user for other modules simultaneously, similar in principle to the driver categories covered by a driving licence.

The normal training format will be:

1. Training for Foundation Modules, 1 day, cost £25-£35/head.
2. Test on Foundation Modules, up to 2 hours, cost £25-£30/head.
3. Training on Application Module 1/2-1 day, cost £35-£50/head.
4. Test on Application Module, 2 hours-1/2 day, cost £25-£65/head.

Cost and timings are approximate. NPTC charges vary from county to county.

Obviously training a spray operative is expensive. A fully certified operator who has attended training courses will cost his employer from £105 to £180 in tuition and examination fees, not including lost work time.

COSHH AND THE GREENKEEPER

The responsibility of the greenkeeper under COSHH is somewhat less clear as the overall responsibility for compliance will lie with the management of the golf club. However, there are a number of actions which the greenkeeper can take to help:-

1. Inform the management of any hazardous products which are used, e.g. any products which carry the orange hazard signs signifying "TOXIC", "HARMFUL", "CORROSIVE" or "IRRITANT". Where possible provide labels for these products and acquire Product Safety Data Sheets from the supplier or manufacturer.

2. Assess whether it is essential to use these products or whether 'safer' formulations and packages can be used.

3. Review the situation in which these products are used. Can better safety equipment be provided, e.g. a mixing bowl for a mounted sprayer.

4. Where 'safer' products and practices have been identified staff should be informed and trained in their correct use and maintenance.

If further help and assistance is required then the local branch of the Health & Safety Executive should be consulted. The HSE would rather advise than prosecute.

Training for FEPA may seem a large investment that was not necessary in the past. However, the law allows for fines of up to £2000 for failure to comply with the legislation and this will be one incentive to get trained. The real benefit however of a training course is that it will pay dividends in terms of both safety and the efficiency of pesticide use. Greater accuracy in application, better calibration, and more care in the choice of pesticide will all result in improved pesticide efficacy and thus justify the extra costs in the long term. Understanding and enforcing the requirements of COSHH will ensure that the golf course remains a healthy and safe working environment for the greenkeeper. Thus, in many ways, the changes to the legislation will in fact be of benefit to the greenkeeper rather than a nuisance.

EVERYONE involved with pesticides should make every effort to ensure that they are "competent for the duties for which they are called upon to perform". It is the duty of both employer and employee to ensure that adequate training and instruction is available and is used, even if a certificate of competence is not required. Pesticides are an important management tool for greenkeepers, skill and safety in using them must be an important feature for the successful care and maintenance of turf, together with healthy greenkeeping.

PATRICK GOLDSWORTHY
Technical Services Manager
ICI Agrochemicals, Professional

CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES

CHEMVAULT UNITS

SPORTS Grounds, Golf Courses, Schools, Colleges and Scientific Laboratories all need to store chemicals of a flammable, corrosive and/or poisonous nature safely and securely.

The new CHEMVAULT Unit does that and is ideal for the safe storage of fertilisers and weedkillers. The units fully satisfy the storage requirements of the relevant Health & Safety Regulations and meet a growing demand from recreation grounds, playing fields and educational establishments.

The theft of such sensitive or dangerous materials is becoming a serious problem but one that can be prevented with CHEMVAULT Units which are extremely secure and resistant to theft.

CHEMVAULT Units are available in five sizes to satisfy most storage requirements. For bulk chemical storage, the Company also has a complete range of PORTASTOR GUARDIAN Walk-in stores which can be tailor-made to include decontamination, washing and changing facilities to satisfy Health and Safety Regulations.

PORTASTOR High Security Products have established a reputation over the past 12 years for providing specialist storage for not only chemicals but also power tools and equipment, e.g. chainsaws, flammable paints, solvents and adhesives, LPG and electronic equipment including video machines, computers and audio visual equipment.

They come fully recommended by Crime Prevention Officers, Local Authority and Company Safety Officers, Fire Officers and Insurance Companies.

The latest CHEMVAULT units feature tanked floors with drain off bung for containing and decanting spillages, high and low level ventilators with flame arrestor gauze to prevent build up of fumes and 50mm returns to the easy action, gas strut assisted lid to prevent flame ingress in the event of fire.

CHEMVAULT and sister product FLAMVAULT units have been tested at the Warrington Fire Research Centre for stability and integrity in a fire for 1 hour and are fully weatherproof for use outdoors. The 2.5mm welded steel con-

struction, reinforcing ribs, high security multi point locking system and fortified key entry points make the CHEMVAULT unit an excellent secure store.

Built to last and with prices ranging from a little over £300 including delivery for the smallest CCV1 unit, CHEMVAULT units are a very practical and economical solution to an increasingly serious problem.

For sales enquiries contact PORTASTOR High Security Products, Portasilo Ltd, Huntington, York, England YO3 9PR. Tel. 0904 624872.

the assessment control pads, hazardous chemical pads, health surveillance records and finally the C.O.S.H.H. and warning signs.

145

DUAL CONTROL

THE valuable dual purpose turf treatment, Turfclear, from Fisons, combines lasting, economical control of both diseases and worm casts in one product. An added benefit is that only the casting worm species are controlled. The beneficial, non casting worms remain largely unaffected.

Turfclear contains Carben-dazim and is approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (MAFF No. 02253).

A free guide to using Turfclear is available on application to Fisons Horticulture, Professional Horticulture Department, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, IP8 4BZ. Tel. (0473) 830492.

146

AGRICLERK

AGRICLERK is probably the leading supplier of chemical log books, charts and signs.

In February 1989 the company purchased Kembin Security Cabinets and expanded the chemical cabinet range to now include the Kembin, Mini-Bin and Contracta-Bin and the petroleum storage cabinets.

To meet the C.O.S.H.H. regulations Agriclerk produced

102

THE DRIVING RANGE

The ICI range of turf care products has been developed for professionals. Whether your target is turf weeds, insect pests or turf diseases – whether the location is fine turf or outfield, look to the driving range.

SUPER VERDONE* The effective selective herbicide which controls major broad-leaved weeds in any established turf. Three powerful weedkillers give broad spectrum cover, even to speedwell and yellow suckling clover.

GAMMA-COL* turf. Underground pest like leatherjackets and chafer grubs will cause ugly bare patches as they eat grass roots and stems. Gamma-Col turf will kill these pests and remains in the soil to give effective and long term control. The easy to use liquid formulation has contact and fumigant action.

TURF CARE PRODUCTS



Professional

ICI Professional Products, Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk. Daconil turf contains chlorothalonil; Tornado contains carbaryl; Super Verdone contains dicamba, 2,4-D and ioxynil; Gamma-Col turf contains gamma HCH.

GREENKEEPING

MANAGEMENT

January '90



CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES

ROCRAFT LIMITED

ROCRAFT Limited, makers of the Red Dragon Gang Mowers, have added security cabinets to their range of products. In addition to their gun cabinet range they manufacture chemical and pesticide storage and handling cabinets which meet the requirements of guidance issued by the Health & Safety Executive.

The standard cabinet of 200 litres capacity is strongly made using 2mm (14 gauge) steel and fitted with a Chubb 5 lever security lock, drain plug and louvered vents.

For easy access to the storage space a large side-hinged door has been fitted and a hinged lower shelf is now a standard feature making the containment area available for larger cartons or drums.

Two other chemical cabinets for transporting 50 litres or 25 litres are made of 1.2mm (18 gauge) with safe edges.

The top opening lid is fitted with a continuous butt hinge and sealed with a fixed Neoprene gasket, a lockable catch retains the lid when closed.

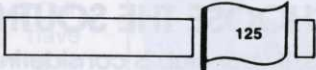
Within both cabinets is a

sump to contain spillage and a drain plug to release any spilled liquids.

Fold down lift handles make carrying easy by either one or two persons.

All cabinets have bolting down holes in the base and are finished in stoved canary yellow paint, an official hazard warning logo is also fitted.

Special cabinets to the customers requirements can be quoted for upon application.



FISONS TURFCARE

FISONS Tritox is a weedkiller tailor made for fine turf use and comprising three powerful herbicides, MCPA, Mecoprop and Dicamba. Tritox is a versatile product controlling a wide range of turf weeds from White Clover Plantains and Daisy to more stubborn species like Yarrow, Parsley Piert, Trefoil, Dandelion, Pearlwort and Knotgrass.

ICI 'DACONIL'

GOOD turf management in the early spring is crucial to obtain hard-wearing and healthy greens and fairways which can survive the rigours of a long playing season. As well as applying the appropriate 'Longlife' Fertilizer, ICI Professional Products advise the use of 'Daconil' turf contact fungicide at the first sign of disease or as a follow-up to winter fungicide treatments.

Turf pests also become active in early spring, in particular leatherjackets which are expected to be a serious problem following the large number of crane flies seen last autumn. At the first sign of damage 'Gamma-col' turf should be applied. Where worm casts are a problem 'Tornado' applied in the spring will give control over the critical period. Weed control should wait until the weather gets warmer, when Super 'Verdone' can be used to control most common broad-leaved weeds in turf.

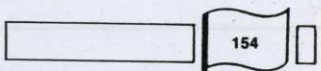
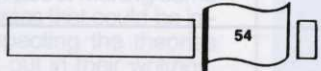
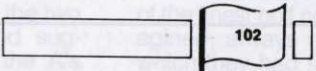
A & R FAIRWAYS PEST CONTROL

A & R Fairways Pest Control specialise in the exclusion, eradication or management of mammals and birds which harm turf or cause a nuisance to those who care for it.

Based in North Wales they already provide a variety of services to Golf Courses, Estates, Farms and The National Trust. They currently operate in England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands.

Much of their work involves the control of moles and rabbits and the provision of suitable fencing for the control of animals that are injurious but protected.

There are few turf pest control problems that cannot be dealt with through a combination of consultancy, service and staff training. For a little free advice or a complete pest management package, contact the specialists A & R Fairways Pest Control advertise in our "Classified Section"



NG RANGE.

TORNADO* Based on carbaryl, Tornado gives economical, effective and long-lasting control of casting worms. Because it works by contact and ingestion it gives quick results and good residual activity. The special liquid formulation is easy to mix and simple to apply. After application it leaves no unpleasant odour – so as soon as the grass is dry, play can continue.

DACONIL[‡] turf. A broad spectrum fungicide for the prevention and control of major turf diseases. Its unique multi-site action and chemical composition means that even after years of successful use it continues to be effective – even sequential spraying programmes create no problems. Daconil turf has dependable and consistent activity at any time of year.



BANG ON TARGET!

Products

Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: (0252) 733919
Read the label before you buy: Use pesticides safely.

GREENKEEPING
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