

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

by Stanley Rachesky

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Safety in the use of chemical pesticides should be of major concern to all golf course personnel. There are no alternate means of adequately controlling insects, mites, nematodes, weeds, fungi and other pests that occasionally run havoc on the golf course.

Pesticides can be poisonous to humans but can be safe if used in the prescribed manner. Many suggestions can be made that will help to insure the wise use of pesticides and thus avoid accidents, but **good judgment** in using and handling pesticides can prevent most accidents.

Your personal safety and the safety of the individuals around you is **your** responsibility.

General Routes of Absorption — dependent upon type of pesticide used:

In general, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides and solvents can enter the human body to a greater or lesser extent by being absorbed through the skin, as well as, the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts.

General Symptoms of Pesticide Poisoning — dependent upon type and dose of toxicant absorbed:

Headache, Dilation of eye pupils, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Drowsiness, Secretion of tears, Dizziness, Profuse sweating, flushed skin, Profuse salivation, Muscle twitching, Loss of coordination, Sensitivity to light and sound, Deep and rapid respiration, Convulsions, Coma.

The old, old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies here better than any place else. When applying pesticides on the golf course accidents can happen! Prepare ahead of time. In case of accidental contamination or ingestion consult a physician before application of the pesticide he can call the nearest poison control center for information and be ready should an accident occur. A list of poison control centers in your state is available by writing directly to the Cooperative Extension Pesticide Specialist in your state.

Think Pesticide Safety.

1. Read the label. The most important 4 minutes in pest control is the time it takes you to read the label.
2. Do not smoke while handling pesticides. Some are quite flammable.
3. Apply correctly to label specifications and only when necessary. Don't over apply.
4. Avoid inhaling fumes, mists, dusts.
5. Wash off contaminated skin with soap and water. Many insecticides are contact poisons and can be easily absorbed through the skin, especially the eyes.
6. Store pesticides in the original containers and under lock and key. It is better to be safe than sorry especially with all the children roaming around on your golf course this summer.
7. Destroy empty containers. Break bottles and punch holes in cans to prevent reuse. Paper containers should be burned, being careful not to inhale the fumes while doing so.

When you want to send a message,
wrap it up in a person.

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The residents of this highly populated and urbanized area of the city of Chicago and suburbs, which in my case includes the 7 most northeast counties of Illinois, are confronted with many insect, plant weed, and animal problems. These problems involve pests of trees, shrubs, lawns, flower gardens, home vegetable gardens, household, **golf courses**, park districts, sewage plants, etc. Correct use of pesticides will provide safe and effective control for the majority of these problems. Thus, the aim of my position is to work along with the various organizations such as the Pest Control Operators, **Golf Course Superintendents**, Park District Manager, Garden Club Federations and any other non-agricultural, non-commercial organization or business in the safe and correct use of pesticides. I will be available to give talks and lectures, identify insects or plant diseases, conduct research or help an irate housewife with a pest problem in her house.

Along the lines of research, last summer I started some work on filter fly control at sewage plants which I hope to continue this summer. Also, this summer I will be working along with the entomologists at the Natural History Survey on the Phytotoxicity of various insecticides on bent grass on some of the golf courses in my area.

Please feel free to write or call at any time.

Stan Rachesky



“SAFETY”

Have a first aid chart and fire extinguisher
available at all times.