



RECORD'S RECORD

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Traveling throughout the Mid-Continent region this past season I have seen many foolish practices when it comes to the use of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc. Not only are the managers of these materials being careless but the playing membership as well. Caddies, as well as members playing barefoot. Fungicide applications being applied by bare foot applicators. The drift of insecticides and fungicides engulfing the tractor driver and golfing members on fairways. It reminds me of a police dog that followed the crew on a golf course in the Hartford, Connecticut area. Whenever they would apply fungicides and insecticides on greens, the dog would hold the dragging hose in his mouth and pull and yank it on from green to green. It was not uncommon to see him foam at the mouth and drink and solution as it was emptied from the spray tank.

Is there any difference with the antics of this dog and the lack of communication between managers and membership in the use of pesticides?

Chlordane and Heptachlor are common insecticides found at golf courses throughout the country. These materials may be absorbed by skin contact, inhalation and ingestion. Aldrin, although not used as frequently on golf courses is extremely serious through skin absorption. When materials such as these are being used, caution is the by-word.

On July 9, the United States Department of Agriculture suspended all of its programs involving the use of so-called persistent pesticides. Among the chemicals involved were, DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin, Endrin, Chlordane, Toxaphene, Lindane, BHC (Benzene Hexachloride) and Heptachlor. The suspension included pest control programs at civilian and military airports and those in the forest and cooperative programs within the 50 states. As of this date, government actions do not apply to farmers, homeowners, etc. with the use of the same chemicals.

The above chemicals have been used to good advantage for grub and insect control on golf courses throughout the United States for many years.

The history of one suspended material, DDT (Dichloro Diphenyl trichloroethane) was described by Othmar Zeidler, a German chemist, in 1874. Its insecticidal value was uncovered in 1939. It was brought into the United States for testing in 1942. DDT was imported in quantity and by 1944 domestic production for military use was going strong. Today, 1969, 30 years later, DDT is temporarily suspended.

Have we in the turf industry during the past 30 years, mis-used these materials to a point where they may be prohibited for insect control on golf courses in the future?

The following chart may help in understanding the make-up of these pesticides:

Aldrin

Hexachloro-hexahydro-endo, exo-dimethanonaphthalene

BHC

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 — hexachlorocyclohexane

Chlordane

Octachloro-4, 7-methanotetrahydroindane

DDT

Dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane

Dieldrin

Hexachloroepoxy-octahydro-enco, exo-dimethanonaphthalene

Endrin

(Stereoisomer of Dieldrin)

Heptachlor

Heptachlorotetrahydro-4, 7-methanoindene

Lindane

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,-hexachlorocyclohexane

Toxaphene

Chlorinated camphene



the grass people

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