

# REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN ILLINOIS AS THEY AFFECT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

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By Oscar Miles

## "Pesticides"

My remarks concerning the pesticide regulations in the State of Illinois will be common sense thoughts that all of us know but, now and then need to be reviewed and discussed at a meeting such as this Green Seminar.

Pesticides, a chemical used to control unwanted pests, which might be weeds, insects, mites, fungi, bacteria, rodents, nematodes and other organisms have played a very important part in producing better turf on golf courses throughout the Chicagoland area. The golf course superintendents in this assembly have been the leaders in our battle against "Dollar Spot", pythium, cutworms, crabgrass, goosegrass and "failure grass" *Poa Annua*. It would be impossible to grow the kind of turf for golf today without the help of chemical pesticides.

### Purchase the Correct Pesticide

The first step in using a pesticide is choosing the correct material after accurately identifying the pest. Pesticides should only be used at the recommended rates to achieve effective control. Always follow the directions as read on the label. Purchase only those pesticides that can be used during the current season.

### STORAGE

Store pesticides in a locked, safe, dry, well ventilated area in the original container. Keep the original label intact. Try to purchase corrosive liquid chemicals in plastic jugs or metal containers lined with plastic. Periodically, inspect containers for leakage. Herbicides should be kept separate from other pesticides and seeds. Gas from volatilization can contaminate seed if stored together.

### Usage: A — Personnel

With usage, consideration must be given to the applicator and his helper, the equipment, materials (pesticides) and finally maintaining records.

It is imperative that we establish work rules with our employees. It is an absolute must that they be properly dressed, from head to toe, so to speak, before they hook up the tractor to the sprayer. They should wear rubber footwear, not tennis shoes. They are very little protection against pesticides saturating the fabric and penetrating to the skin which might cause contact burn or allergies. Full length pants, long sleeve shirts, rubber gloves, goggles to protect the eyes, face mask to keep poisons out of the mouth and nose. A hard hat to deflect golf balls and the use of hand cream applied over exposed skin surfaces. Hand cream will allow you to more easily wash exposed areas free of pesticide contaminants.

### B — Equipment

To apply pesticides on golf courses, sprayers and spreaders are generally used. They are pulled by a turf tractor or other motorized unit. Equipment must be inspected every time it is used to see if it is working properly. Several times during the season, the sprayer should be recalibrated to be certain the "output per unit area" is accurate. Check the tractor ground speed also. Odometer and tachometers have mechanical problems also.

## Materials — Pesticides

Read the label of all pesticides. Understand the warnings and anti-dotes in case of poisoning.

Know the important signs of pesticide poisoning, they might be: headache, blurred vision, nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and chest discomfort. If poisoning is suspected, call a physician immediately or contact your nearest poison control center, relate the label information and follow their instructions. If poisoning has occurred, remove contaminated clothing and wash thoroughly with warm water and soap.

## Records

Maintain accurate records of all pesticide applications that have been made. At the end of the season, it is wise to have this information typed up and a copy placed in the club file as a permanent record. This record is a very valuable tool to every good turf manager when determining what practices have been good ones. Without good and complete records, a sound year-end evaluation and projection for the following year can not be made.

## Don't

The responsibility of wise pesticide usage to protect our natural and unnatural golf course environments is in your hands.

When using pesticides, we must always be aware of the following "do not's":

1. Do not reuse containers, render them unusable by breaking or disposing through normal collections.
2. Do not dispose of large amounts (which are dry materials 5 lbs., liquid 1 gal.) in landfill dumps or directly on the ground.
3. Do not dump diluted materials or wash equipment within 500 feet of ground water, wells, ponds, or streams. Calculate closely the last load, so there will not be any leftover materials.
4. Do not stop learning.
5. Do not stop sharing your experiences at Green Seminars and other professional and not so professional informal meetings with your neighbor superintendents.

Be cautious at all times when using pesticides. Pesticides can be used to improve our environment. We must practice conservation. Dr. R. W. Stevens, Rutgers University, in the July issue of the U.S.G.A. Green Section Record said "conservation is directed primarily at conserving man and those plants and creatures and areas which serve man: anything else is not conservation but merely conversation".

You are practicing conservation with each and every pesticide application you make. Are you confident your pesticide program is the best thing for your club? Practice conservation, not merely conversation.

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