

A TIMELY REMINDER

On Friday, March 4, 1983 I retested for the Pesticide Applicators License. This brought to mind several things that I need to do before spraying season starts. I thought maybe some other people might benefit from a reminder as well.

First of all, is your license up to date? If not, you should have been notified by now that you need to retake the General Standards exam as well as any other categories that you might be involved in, such as Turf, Ornamentals, or Aquatics. Also remember that any person who applies pesticides under your supervision must have passed the General Standards exam and possess an Operators License. IT IS THE LAW!

Consider the equipment you provide that person with to do his job. Applying pesticides is serious business and your employees deserve the proper protection. Do you supply the following items?

Unlined rubber gloves	Goggles
Complete rubber rain suits	-Facilities for washing garments
Disposable coveralls	Proper training
Proper masks and/or respirators	First aid protection
Rubber boots	Proper pesticide storage

If you do not supply these things then you should consider doing so immediately. The liability your club has is great and it is your responsibility to help reduce it. These items are cheap in comparison to the cost of carelessness. Is your spray equipment safe? Check it out now before you have to use it. Repair those leaks in tanks and hoses and connections. Remember to tell your mechanic to be careful when working on this equipment and to wash all areas which may come in contact with pesticides while working on it.

Knowledge and respect of Pesticides has grown tremendous over the past ten years. We now know that how we handle these materials now may affect us, our environment and our future generations in the years to come. Roscoe Randall said at the Pesticide Applicators Clinic, "We don't fear pesticides, we just want to handle them with the proper respect." Golf Course Superintendents are environmentalists from the start. When you go out on your golf course early in the morning and observe how Mother Nature uses it as refuge and a haven, you know you have something to protect. I find this especially true at my course being so close to the city.

Pesticides are a necessity in our business, in many cases our only means of providing good golf turf. They are an aid, a tool, which when used properly produces excellent results. One aspect of being the professionals we are is the proper use of pesticides. That statement from our friend Roscoe Randall says it all, let's everyone abide by it. I hope some of my peers can find this reminder useful as another season gets under way.

Roger A. Stewart, Jr., CGCS
Riverside Golf Club

G.C.S.A.A. NEW MEMBERS AT THE HELM 1983 ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Bob W. Osterman, CGCS
VICE PRESIDENT - Jim W. Timmerman, CGCS
SEC./TREASURER - Eugene D. Baston, CGCS
IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT - James A. Wyllie, CGCS
DIRECTORS - Paul Boizelle, CGCS
John P. Hayden, CGCS
Riley L. Stattern, CGCS
Richard Slivinski, CGCS
Donald Hearn, CGCS

PROPER PRUNING

Many pruning chores easily can be accomplished by the homeowner, but when work is required in the uppermost branches of tall shade trees or other difficult to reach places, it is wiser — and safer — to get tree care professionals to do the work.

Those who plan to do their own pruning, should make sure they have on hand appropriate, sharp tools beyond the conventional pruning shears used for twiggy growth. These may include, depending on the work to be done, loppers for small branches and stems, an extension pole pruner for light pruning in tree tops, a pruning saw and perhaps a gas- or electric-powered chain saw for heavier growth.

Here are some suggestions that may be helpful:

- When pruning shade or fruit trees, make all cuts close to the branch or trunk so that no stub remains.
- Where loppers are used, such as on small limbs, cuts will be more easily made by placing the blade below or beside the crotch rather than inside it.
- When severing large branches with a pruning or chain saw; guard against the bark tearing away from the branch as it falls by making a deep undercut about 3 inches out from the trunk, then sever the branch with a full cut from above. Remove the remaining stub by cutting flush with the trunk.
- On fruit trees, the basic goals are to encourage strong crotch development by reducing superfluous growth on branches so the latter can support heavy yields of fruit. Open spaces in the trees allow sunlight and pest sprays to penetrate all parts evenly.
- With ornamental shrubs, prune to eliminate excessive sucker growth, promoting better vigor and keeping them trim and attractive. Cut oldest, woody stems of multistem shrubs down to the ground. This will open the plants to light and air and stimulate new basal growth.

Remember, however, that spring flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac and magnolia, should not be pruned at this time. Wait until they have completed their bloom cycle. These plants produced their flower buds last summer, and any pruning now will diminish their spring displays. Such shrubs as privet, grown only for their foliage or screening effects, may be pruned at any time.

Because of their more concentrated formulas, the dormant sprays generally are most effective against scale insects that attack ornamental trees, shrubs and roses, as well as mealybugs, mites, hibernating caterpillars and other pests.

Materials commonly found in dormant spray formulas include oil, lime-sulphur and a combination of the two. Some also are a combination of insecticides and fungicides that will control both disease and plant pests. Both are available at most garden centers under various trade names. Label directions should be followed precisely, as certain kinds can be used only on certain trees and shrubs.

Art Kozelka
Garden Writer

POSITION WANTED

I am a student at Michigan State University. In addition to the 2-year Turf degree, I also have a B.S. from Univ. of Wisconsin-Green Bay in General Science.

I am looking for an Assistant Superintendent's position in the Chicago area. Please contact:

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