

Effective Communication to Club Members Concerning the Use of Pesticides on the Golf Course

by Bruce R. Williams
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Each year we place an article in our club Newsletter concerning the use of pesticides on the golf course. This article is useful and informative to our membership. It certainly helps to have our members keep an open mind on the issue of pesticide usage due to the negative image presented by many of the media. By showing our members that we can use pesticides in a safe manner and in an Integrated Pest Management Program we can minimize the number of complaints and negative comments that might arise. The article follows.

In order to maintain the high quality of turfgrass on our golf course it is necessary to use a variety of pesticides throughout the year. Herbicides are used to control weeds, fungicides control turfgrass diseases, and insecticides control potential damage to turfgrass and ornamentals by the adult and larval stages of certain insects. Without the use of pesticides it would be very difficult to sustain the quality of playing conditions we are accustomed to.

At Bob O'Link we use the philosophy of Integrated Pest Management when applying pesticides. Basically this is the use of various cultural practices to insure the health of plants combined with the frugal use of pesticides on a preventative basis. All of the pesticides used on the golf course are available as well as homeowners (at local stores) and are not on the restricted use list of the Environmental Protection Agency. It is a requirement of the state and federal government that our staff members are licensed to handle and apply pesticides. Intensive training is required as well as a 1/2 day of testing every 5 years. Examinations are given in categories of a) turfgrass, b) ornamentals and landscape plants, c) aquatic vegetation & d) mosquito abatement.

Our goal is to use pesticides in a safe and effective manner without endangering our applicators, our golfers, or the environment. Each year we ask your cooperation with the following:

1. Caddies must wear shoes at all times to prevent skin contact of recently applied pesticides.
2. The practice of cleaning the golf ball with the tongue is not advisable and could cause potential health problems.

A list of pesticides used on the golf course is available from our Golf Course Superintendent - Bruce Williams. We appreciate your cooperation with our efforts to provide the best possible playing conditions for our members.

"Reprieve"

September brings Labor Day,
Throw away Your Straw Hat.
Summer's pressures soon will disappear,
And Pestilence go scat.
Welcome gracious Autumn treats,
Away with all despair.
Summer's Season is nearly gone,
Breathe in the carefree peaceful Air.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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