

## Our Future is Now

by Ed Fischer, CGCS  
Old Elm G.C.

I think that we can all remember when we mixed Lead Arsenate and Milorginate together to put on our greens and tees. How much dust did we breathe into our systems, usually washed down with a Coke? I also remember spraying greens with shorts, no shirt and tennis shoes.

I don't think that any of us today would think of asking our employees to do these jobs without providing them with proper safety equipment. But is that enough? Are we doing everything that we should be doing? In most cases I would say that we are, but we can do more.

I never thought that I would ask my employees to go to a training hour. I never thought that I would insist that my people have an understanding about how dangerous our chemicals could be. But I think that we are learning more ourselves, giving us more concern about our employees.

Having been on GCSAA's Government Relations Committee for the past two years, I have seen some test results that scare the hell out of me. For example, the difference of exposure between using gloves and not using gloves when loading the sprayer is about 90%. If just wearing gloves can mean that much, what can the difference be when other protective clothing is worn? Believe me, it can be a great difference.

In protecting our people, we also protect our environment. We are more aware of what we are applying and when we are applying our materials. We all can do a better job of protecting our surrounding environment. The chemicals that we are now using are so effective that isn't hard to target our problem, spray for that problem, and get the kind of control that we want. Yes, I think that we still will spray preventively, but not like we used to. If it isn't our choice, we will be forced into doing it the way the EPA wants us to.


What is our future? The protection of our employees will be uppermost in our minds. We will insist that they wear protective clothing and breathing equipment, and rightly so. Our employees are our most important resource and they must be protected.

Our environment is our FUTURE, and the future of our children, and protect it we must. It is our most important job in the next few years. Chemicals are so important not only to us and the golfers we work for, but to the world we live in. Let's not screw it up!!

It is our responsibility to make the chemical companies work hard to give us tools to work with that will not only be safe for us and our employees, but also for the environment we live in. The Government is also an aid to us. It will help to insure that those companies work hard to give us what we want, and the way we want it, but we must help. If the EPA or another agency comes and asks for our help, do it. It will only make our future more secure, and our world a better place to live.

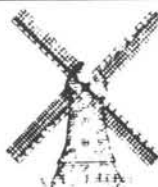


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