

**THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
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President's Message

The days of mixing Milorganite with Calo-Chlor and throwing it off the back of the truck with shovels, wearing only a handkerchief over your face for protection are over. The public is being made increasingly more aware of the risks involved with pesticide usage. Many times their information comes from over dramatic news shows or media headlines, but we as professionals cannot ignore the issue.

On March 29th of this year the EPA banned the use of Diazinon on golf courses and sod farms but left its use intact for the individual homeowner. A move that leaves me scratching my head wondering what's next.

What are we as individual pesticide users suppose to do? First, we must practice safe application techniques. That means that our operators must wear the appropriate safety equipment ie; respirators, goggles, rubber gloves, rain suits etc. Warm weather cannot be used as an excuse for not wearing proper gear.

Second, even though the Illinois Pesticide Test has in the past been scorned and sometimes ignored, this cannot be the case anymore. The public and media are looking for any excuse they can find to crack down on pesticide usage. An unlicensed applicator is just the kind of thing that they can sink their teeth into. Don't give them the opportunity.

Third, keep meticulous records. If you are visited by local EPA officials you must be able to prove that you are applying materials in strict accordance with their intended use. Only by **constantly** demonstrating responsible pesticide application can we hope to offset the negative publicity generated from just **one** incident of misapplication.

This issue is not going to go away and it is everyone's responsibility to follow all the rules of safe pesticide application to insure that the list of banned products doesn't continue to grow.

Mike Nass