

Safe and Sane Use of Pesticides

Dr. Roger Funk

Davey Environmental Services

The safe and sane use of pesticides is of concern to all of us, whether we use pesticides or not. Dr. Roger Funk is involved in issues related to pesticides every day of the week. His experience and understanding make the following comments of great importance.

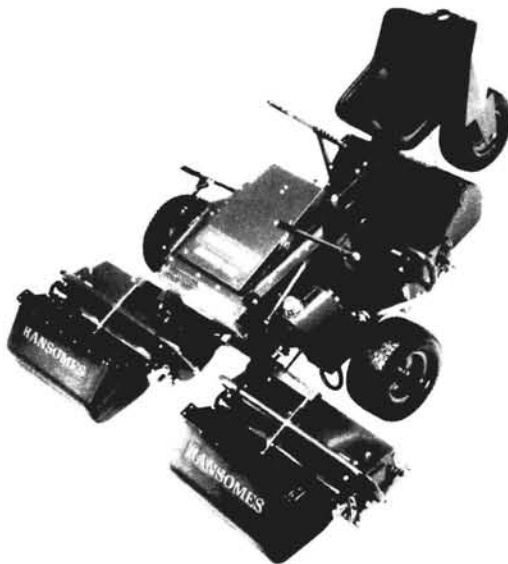
- Because of the existence of threatened and endangered species, in 1988 a Federal Law placed limits on use of pesticides used county by county.
- On May 23, 1988, the Federal Standard "Right to Know Law" made it mandatory to inform workers and communities of practices and materials that might influence their health and welfare day to day. This was designed to cover all existing state laws that might be less stringent. For example: New York State requires a supervisor who is certified. Some states require that all applicators be certified. This requires some 30 hours of training for those that apply pesticides.
- There are many other regulations:
 - * Departments of Transportation have regulations on the transport of chemicals, including pesticides.
 - * Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has regulations.
 - * Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has regulations.
- Regardless of regulations, there is a lack of competent workers and great difficulty in getting them on the job. Thus, implementation of regulations is difficult.

- The mission of protecting the health and beauty of clients' landscape plants is worthy. In order to obtain better qualified workers, the image of the product and job opportunities must be improved in the schools.
- When it comes to use of pesticides, all people seem to think they are experts. They each have the correct perception of the problem. It is either crisis or opportunity. How do you view it? How do you handle it? As a crisis or as an opportunity? There is perhaps a need for change in perceptions within the industry. Why should there be this controversy?
- There seems to be 3 reasons for the current pesticide crisis:
 - * The media have and continue to condition the public to expect crisis;
 - * Pesticide use out-of-doors is highly visible;
 - * There is an over-emphasis on and over-use of pesticides. The shot-gun approach is common. Put on a lot of stuff whether it's needed or not. If a little bit is good, more should be better.

"Happy New Season"

The end of one season, start of another,
What a variation, one to the other.
Emotional challenge, contenting success,
How We enjoy this competing mess.
Quite a whirl We find Ourselves in,
Great expectations, work to the chin.
Savor the flavor of what's gone by,
Aim towards the future, shoot for the Sky.

Kenneth R. Zanzig



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