

Proper Planning for Containment

by Brian R. Flood & Geoffrey Smith
Portable Containment, Inc.

Plan, practice, prepare a pesticide program promptly and practically for the containment provisions of the Illinois Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act, alias The Act.

Briefly, The Act requires that after January 1, 1992, washing of pesticide application equipment must occur over an impervious material designed to capture spills. The washwater is to be captured and reused. Illinois has other rules regarding pesticide spill reporting for unrecovered spills.

You may have feelings toward the Act regarding the completeness, the format, the goal, the administration and the focus. However, we are in the 1990's and we do need to take a proactive common sense approach to resolving and preventing problems.

Take the opportunity to focus on the public's perspective of your pesticide usage. Perception is reality. Does your pesticide program run in a professional manner? If not, you could be jeopardizing our future. Agriculture data has shown that over 85% of loading areas to be contaminated and a majority of on-site wells associated with the load area were also contaminated.

Here are a few suggestions that may give you some ideas as to how to systematically and incrementally improve your operation without destroying your annual budget.

PROTECT THE WATER SUPPLY: Do not mix or load near the well. Utilize a 'break tank' with a 6-inch fixed air gap between the top of the break tank and the outlet end of the fill hose. Pump the water from the break tank to your sprayer. Do not rely on costly and ineffective back flow prevention valves. The break tank makes efficient economical environmental sense.

PROTECT YOUR WORKERS: Have copies of MSDS sheets and labels available. Keep your workers informed and stress cleanliness and safety.

CONTAINMENT AREA DESIGN: Mix and load in a well-ventilated clean area. If the load area and wash area are to be outdoors, provisions for rain water by pass and/or collection and storage will need to be made. A 12' x 14' pad will collect over 100 gallons of water for every inch of rain. Illinois averages 30-40 inches of precipitation per year. A large concrete load pad is one big rain gauge. If you keep the pad clean the rainwater can be discharged. If you do not keep the pad clean you will be generating a lot of rinsate water. The rinsate will require storage and that storage will require more containment. Keep the pad clean because it is a lot easier and cheaper.

Financial resources are limited, and we all must set priorities. The goal of the Act is to reduce point source pollution. However, Mother Nature would be better served by building wildlife habitat rather than constructing a large concrete rain gauge. People provide containment not concrete. Remember as the Department of Transportation has clearly demonstrated. There are two types of concrete in Illinois one that is cracked and one that is going to crack. The vast majority of lawn care application

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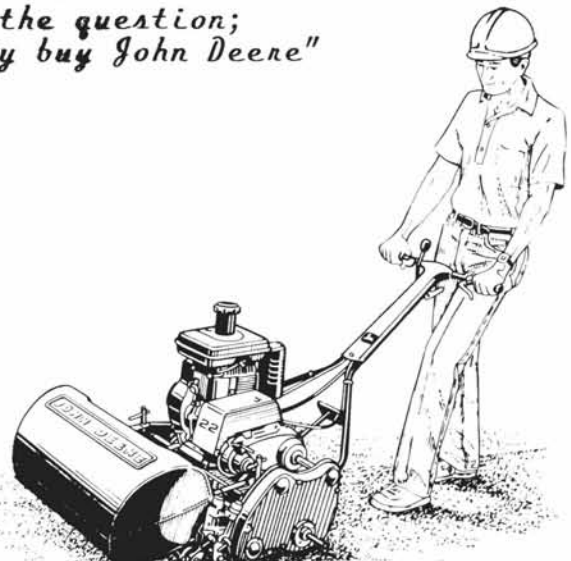


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' SEEING IS BELIEVING '

(Containment cont'd.)

equipment is light duty compared to agriculture equipment. You have special needs and uses, your pesticide management program should be designed for those needs and uses.

There are other options to concrete pads.

The Portable Containment System can provide immediate containment without construction. The units come in several sizes to fit your operation. The containment units are deployed when and where you need them and folded away when not required. This flexible option allows you to utilize existing buildings without construction or contamination. You lay the portable containment unit out and secure the unit in place. Washwater is sumped from the unit into your application equipment for immediate reuse and thus avoids rinsate storage needs. The concept is simple and that is why it works.

I would encourage you to look, to plan and to develop a system that meets your needs, your goals, and your financial resources.

State Ranking of U. S. Golfers

Participation Rate

(Percentage of residents who play golf)

1. Minnesota	21.2
2. Utah	21.0
3T. North Dakota	19.3
3T. Wisconsin	19.3
5T. Wyoming	17.4
5T. Iowa	17.4
7. Idaho	17.0
8. Michigan	16.9

Number of Participants

(To nearest thousand)

1. California	2,842,000
2. New York	1,543,000
3. Illinois	1,530,000
4. Texas	1,497,000
5. Ohio	1,375,000
6. Florida	1,374,000
7. Michigan	1,273,000
8. Pennsylvania	1,071,000

9. Illinois	16.0	9. Wisconsin	769,000
10. Ohio	15.3	10. New Jersey	730,000
11. Nebraska	15.0	11. Minnesota	727,000
12. Colorado	14.5	12. Massachusetts	720,000
13. Massachusetts	14.3	13. Indiana	639,000
14T. Kansas	13.8	14. North Carolina	609,000
14T. Indiana	13.8	15T. Georgia	510,000
16. Arizona	13.7	15T. Washington	510,000
17T. New Mexico	13.6	17. Missouri	499,000
17T. Montana	13.6	18. Virginia	469,000
19. Washington	13.4	19. Arizona	416,000
20T. Nevada	13.0	20. Colorado	400,000
20T. South Dakota	13.0	21. Iowa	394,000
22. Oregon	12.9	22. Maryland	392,000
23. Connecticut	12.8	23. Tennessee	358,000
24. Florida	12.3	24. Connecticut	354,000
25. California	11.8	25. Kentucky	345,000
26. Missouri	11.7	26. Oregon	291,000
27. Vermont	11.6	27. South Carolina	290,000
28. Kentucky	11.1	28. Kansas	288,000
29T. North Carolina	11.0	29. Utah	267,000
29T. New Jersey	11.0	30. Alabama	264,000
31T. New York	10.9	31. Oklahoma	257,000
31T. Rhode Island	10.9	32. Louisiana	201,000
33T. Pennsylvania	10.8	33. Nebraska	194,000
33T. Maine	10.8	34. New Mexico	171,000
35. Texas	10.5	35. West Virginia	135,000
36T. Maryland	10.0	36. Idaho	130,000
36T. South Carolina	10.0	37. Nevada	118,000
38. Oklahoma	9.5	38. Mississippi	110,000
39T. Georgia	9.5	39T. Arkansas	109,000
39T. New Hampshire	9.5	39T. Maine	109,000
41. Virginia	9.4	41. North Dakota	99,000
42. Delaware	9.3	42. Rhode Island	93,000
43. West Virginia	8.8	43. New Hampshire	90,000
44. Tennessee	8.5	44. Montana	88,000
45. Alabama	7.9	45. South Dakota	77,000
46T. Louisiana	5.6	46. Wyoming	67,000
46T. Arkansas	5.6	47. Vermont	55,000
48. Mississippi	5.3	48. Delaware	52,000
49. District of Columbia	4.0	49. District of Columbia	23,000

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