

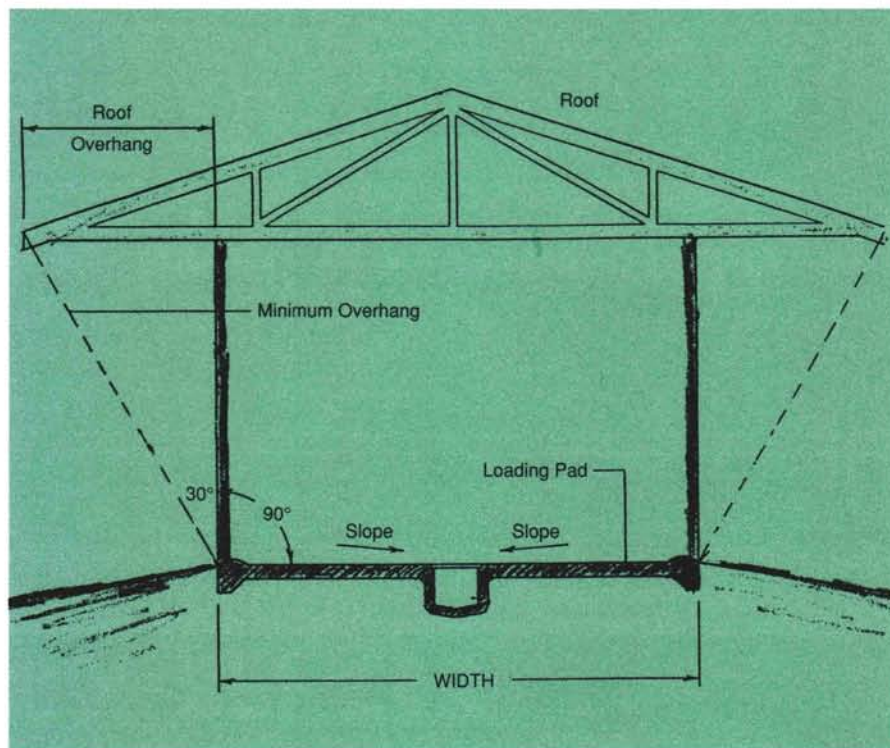
How's Your "Rinse Pad" Coming Along?

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CDGA/GAI Turf Advisor

In 1989, the Illinois State Legislature passed into law the Lawn Care Products Application and Notice Act. The Act was revised in February 1993 to update the requirements for wash water and rinsate collection (part 256). Two main requirements of the Act are: 1) notification of pesticide use (On golf courses you see the familiar poster describing the use of plant protectants.), and 2) a wash water/rinsate containment area to be utilized for capture of pesticide spills or residues from application equipment (in common parlance, a "rinse pad").

For the last several years, efforts have been made to define what is an acceptable rinse pad (size, materials, etc.) and how to get it permitted. Efforts have also been made to educate pesticide users on the Act itself and the need for rinse pads. The Illinois Department of Agriculture is the implementing and enforcement authority. The Department has worked along with state university faculty and other extension personnel to clear up questions about rinse pads and other aspects of the Act.

By late 1993, rinse pad permitting guidelines were in place. The next spring, a series of educational seminars cosponsored by the ITF were held regarding wash water containment areas. Unfortunately, there was some confusion at the Oak Brook seminar about loading and mixing pesticides in the field as a



legal alternative to obtaining a rinse pad because of certain language in the Act ("Field washing of exterior surfaces . . . is acceptable at the site of application . . ."). However, there has since been clarification, and a rinse pad is required for spill containment and for washing/rinsing the interior surfaces of the sprayer, as well as for triple rinsing containers, etc. At this point, there should be no doubt that all Illinois golf courses should have a permitted wash water containment area for loading/rinsing pesticide application equipment. The reasons are simple: first, to prevent spills or rinsewater-containing pesticides from entering the environment, especially the ground water or surface water; and second, to protect yourself from the expense of toxic-spill cleanups and possible pollution

lawsuits. There is also a safety concern for yourself and/or your workers.

During 1995 and 1996, many Chicago area superintendents proceeded with the permitting process and construction of a rinse pad. (As everyone knows, this can be a complicated and time-consuming process. To expedite the process, you need to obtain an application for a permit and follow the directions.) In some cases, the finished facility is a separate building which includes pesticide storage as well as a rinse pad. The design of the storage area has some of the same containment parameters as the rinse pad. So, the rinsate collection and pesticide storage systems are in a separate building physically

(continued on page 10)

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(continued from page 8)

removed from the primary maintenance area.

Needless to say, these facilities are not cheap. Other superintendents have constructed more spartan stand-alone rinse pads. These are usually made of concrete, are open sided, and have a roof overhead. Other types of acceptable pads include synthetic polymer or stainless steel "portable" units. REGARDLESS of what type of rinse pad you decide upon, it needs to be permitted first to make sure it meets all requirements of the Department of Agriculture.

Aside from the superintendents with whom I discussed this topic, I also talked to Dr. Bob Wolf at the University of Illinois, and Mr. Jerry Kirbach,

Manager, Permits and Downstate Operations with the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield. In the past, the Department of Agriculture has been more involved with education and outreach activities in regards to the Act. In 1997, they anticipate more compliance activity and enforcement of the rules and regulations. For golf courses, the rinse pad question will probably be of primary concern.

If you haven't done anything yet, now is the time to consider plans for permitting, installing, and using a wash water containment system. Many superintendents or their supervisors (club officials, managers, etc) haven't taken any action yet on the rinse pad issue. There are many reasons for this, such as: 1) waiting for the funding; 2) waiting to see what

others are doing that is acceptable; 3) waiting for local building permits once the state permit is granted; 4) waiting to see if there will be inspections/enforcement; or 5) operating under the mistaken assumption that field loading/rinsing is an acceptable alternative.

And, by the way, if you already have a rinse pad—use it! They weren't meant to be extra parking spaces or chemical storage areas. If you need more information or would like to apply for a permit, call Jerry Kirbach at 217- 785-2427. ■

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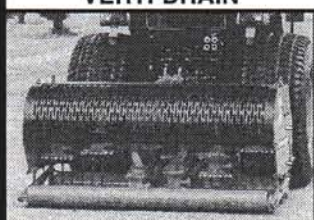
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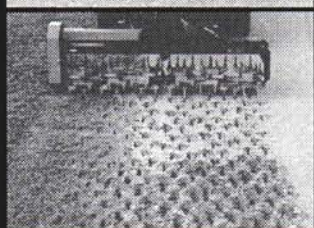
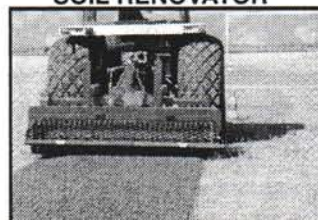
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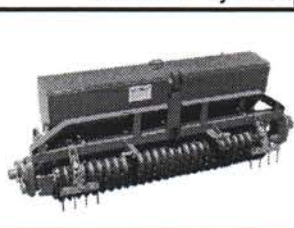
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