

EPA to Redefine Waters of the U.S.



Shane Conroy of Spectrum Technologies addresses the audiences on some of the more popular tech-tools used for turf.

Luke Cella, MAGCS

As the GCSAA becomes more actively involved in ongoing legislation battles, the Midwest has followed suit. We've tried to become more proactive, and this column is one way to keep our members informed of local, state and national issues that may impact the business of golf.

Methyl Bromide

The phase out of the soil sterilant methyl bromide is quickly coming to an end. Methyl bromide is commonly used in putting green renovation and resurfacing projects to ensure that viable plant material and soil borne pests are eliminated before replanting. Currently, there are few practical alternatives to methyl bromide that are available for use on golf courses. Despite efforts to prolong the use of methyl bromide through critical use



exemptions, a decision made by the Environmental Protection Agency will officially terminate sales of methyl bromide to golf courses on Nov. 30, 2014. However, the option of pre-purchasing methyl bromide and contracting fumigation services prior to the stop-sale date is still available. Some currently licensed contract applicators are accepting pre-payments for future use of methyl bromide through 2017. However, the end user is required to accept shipment and store product on-site adhering to all federal, state and local requirements. This allows some flexibility for courses scheduling putting green renovation and resurfacing

projects, but it is still advised to undertake methyl bromide fumigation sooner rather than later.

Nemacur

Nemacur was cancelled in 2003 with a 5-year phase out but the EPA has modified the phase out of fenamiphos, the active ingredient in Nemacur products. Nemacur® was the primary product used to control/suppress plant parasitic nematodes. The original phase out plan allowed for the use fenamiphos until existing supplies were exhausted. However, in a recent change to the Federal Register, 76(193):61690-61694, the EPA is requiring that all fenamiphos inventories be used by Oct. 6, 2014. Golf courses that still have products containing fenamiphos should use them according to label recommendations before Oct. 6. After Oct. 6, 2014, any remaining fenamiphos materials will be classified as hazardous waste and must be properly disposed accordingly. GCSAA is submitting requesting EPA for relief from this date to use stocks rather than hazardous waste.



Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Update

EPA wants to redefine what the waters of the United States and remove the word navigable from the definition in the Clean Water Act. If this occurs, it would give EPA (Federal)