

(continued from page 29)

fanned away the cloud, and proceeded to calibrate the spreader.

Afterward, he went home, took a shower, had dinner, all the usual after-work activities, and felt fine. About midnight, however, he woke up with a severe headache and severe perspiration. This turned into "the shakes," and he felt the room start to spin around. Then John #2 felt alternately hot and sweaty, and then very cold. During the cold period, no amount of blankets could keep him warm.

A while later, John #2 settled down a little, and got up to look up pesticide poisoning in a farm chemicals book. Seeing the symptoms in the book were similar to his, he asked his wife to take him out to the farm, as he couldn't drive in his condition. He wanted to see what type of chemical this was, because he had never used it before. But before they got too far, the dizziness, sweating, and shakes returned, and John #2 told his wife to take him to the hospital.

Upon arrival, John had trouble convincing the staff of his problem. "How do you know you're poisoned?" they asked. One doctor told him he was just getting a bad cold, but John persisted, and another doctor was summoned, one who had experience in pesticide poisoning. After detailed discussion, including a call to the pesticide manufacturer, the doctor finally agreed that it was pesticide poisoning. John #2 was given antidotal injections, and kept for observation overnight.

In the morning he was released, and given a prescription to combat the symptoms. John #2 felt fairly good during the day, but every night the dizziness and sweating returned, as did the muscle spasms. The pills helped some, but he has not had a good night's sleep in the month since the incident. The seizures would last all night early on, but now they only go on for about two hours.

About two weeks later, John #2 drove his truck to the area where he had applied the material, and as soon as he got to the area, the attacks started. Later that week, he drove the tractor with the spreader that had contained the chemical, and again felt the dizziness and perspiration begin. As John was recounting the story to me, he began to perspire and salivate, and his eyes had a funny look to them, with constricted pupils. He says that even thinking about it can bring on the seizures.

John #2 told me that if he had to use the chemical to grow grass, then he would sell the farm. He got rid of the spreader and his clothes, and purchased a \$400 protective suit with mask, gloves, boots, the works. John will still not venture into the field where the material was applied, and he will not set foot on any golf course.

The type of pesticide poisoning which John #1 and John #2 suffered was organophosphate poisoning. This class of chemical (and also many others) can affect the transmission of nerve impulses, resulting in a broad range of symptom types, including, as John #1 and John #2 put it, "losing control of your body." If the nerve impulses are

interrupted enough, the brain can't tell the heart to beat or the lungs to breathe, and death results.

As a consultant, I recommend agricultural chemicals every day. Like most of you, I try to respect the benefit from the use of chemicals, and to respect the environment as well. Why did I write this article? Not to scare, nor no alarm, nor preach. These guys who had this problem had worked in agriculture and had used chemicals for years. They are guys working and making a living in agriculture just like you. Pesticide poisoning can happen to anybody. It happened to these guys, and it can happen to you, easier than you think. Be careful, respect these materials, use your head, and encourage those who work for you to do the same. ■

New St. Augustine Variety To Be Released

By HAROLD JONES

A new variety of St. Augustinegrass developed by plant breeders at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

'Floralawn' St. Augustine is resistant to St. Augustine decline virus, southern chinch bugs, and downy mildew. It is tolerant to sod webworms under low fertility.

Like "Floratum" it is equally coarse in leaf texture and stolon texture and is sensitive to winter injury, although no winter injury has been observed to date in Florida. It is very similar to 'Floratum' in its shade of tolerance and will not take as much as shade as "Floratum".

A major advantage of this grass is that it can be distinguished from other varieties of St. Augustinegrass by alcohol dehydrogenase, electrophoretic banding patterns and morphological characteristics.

There are so many questions as to whether or not a consumer has gotten the "Floratum" they paid for and this grass may help us reduce this problem.

This new variety has not been released to the sod growers and will probably not really be available for planting for at least 18 to 24 months.

Extension information and services are available to all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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We hope the information in this newsletter will help you have the grass which is greener on The Other Side. Suggestions regarding the content or format of this newsletter are welcome. ■