

(continued from page 51)

abotched laboratory experiment on mice.

To put things in perspective, let us try to think logically and consider the following points:

- 1.) Golf Course Superintendents, their spray technicians, and other maintenance personnel take the greatest risk using pesticides. They are exposed to the pure concentrated pesticide when mixing and handling; they are exposed to the diluted spray mixture before it is watered in; and they spend 2 to 3 times as many hours on the golf course as golfers do.
- 2.) A golf course crew is generally a small close-knit group, and it would be very difficult to look another member of that group in the eye if you felt you were exposing him to unnecessary or unusual hazards.
- 3.) Thanks to the efforts of the media and environmental groups, pesticides with residual activity (mostly chlorinated hydrocarbons like DDT) have been taken off the market, and the replacement chemicals (mostly organophosphates and carbamates) are more dangerous to man (especially those who mix, handle, and spray them), and must be used more often and at much higher cost to deliver the same level of control.
- 4.) The only reason golf course maintenance people support the use of pesticides is because it is a necessary tool for doing their job of providing the fine playing conditions that golfers have come to expect and demand. None of us like using pesticides. We receive no "kick-backs" or other compensation from chemical companies. Without pesticides there would be no golf as we know it today.
- 5.) Every year we lose one or more pesticides for use on golf courses, usually because of accidents, excesses, or false allegations in the agricultural industry. Golf Course Superintendents must pass examinations to obtain and retain licenses to use restricted pesticides and are head and shoulders above the ag industry and the general public concerning pesticide use and safety.

It is time that golfers realize that they had better get behind their Superintendents and support the responsible use of pesticides. There is little incentive for a chemical company to invest the huge sums of money necessary to get a new pesticide tested and registered for use on golf courses. If present trends continue, many of today's golfers may not be able to afford being one of tomorrow's golfers. When your Superintendent asks for your financial support for turfgrass research projects (some of which involves finding biological controls to replace pesticide controls), give generously. If every golf course gave just \$500 a year for turf research, most of the serious problems facing Golf Course Superintendents would be solved in a few short years.

The pesticide controversy is an issue of vital concern to the golf industry, and presents a challenge that should be met head-on by everyone who cares about the great game of golf.

Sincerely,

Mark Jarrell, CGCS

Chairman, Superintendent Promotions, Florida GCSA
Director, Florida Turf-Grass Association
Past-President, Palm Beach Chapter GCSA

From . . .

OUR SIDE

I would expect this type of article from a publication like "National Enquirer" but not from a magazine that is in the business of promoting.

I admit that you did lend some credibility to golf course superintendents in the closing paragraphs of your article buried in the closing pages of your magazine but to entitle the article "Killer Courses" and to put a large skull and crossbones in a poison bottle on the first page of the article is inexcusable.

A little research goes a long way-consider the following facts:

— Daconil 2787, also called BRAVO, is used on nearly all vegetables and fruits.

— Considerably more people suffer from allergies to seafood, milk, grains pollen, and grass itself than they do to Daconil 2787 on golf balls.

— In laboratory tests it took three times as much Daconil 2787 than table salt to kill test animals and thirteen times more than aspirin.

— One alleged death due to Daconil 2787 is negligible compared to golf course deaths that occur due to insect attacks, lightning, heat stroke, heart attacks, and even golfers being struck by balls.

— Diazinon, also called Spectracide, which you have also mentioned in your article will probably soon be prohibited from use on golf courses but will still be permitted for use on almost all agricultural crops, in home gardens, and even in homes themselves for control of roaches, stored food pests, and other insects.

Golf course superintendents in Florida raised over \$35,000 this year to support research efforts.

Wouldn't it be more responsible for you to publish an article encouraging golfers to support these fund raising efforts rather than telling them in bold skulls and crossbones that superintendents are poisoning them?

I don't know if the damage you have already done can be corrected but I can assure you that your magazine has lost credibility with golf course superintendents and other knowledgeable people throughout the nation.

I hope that you now realize that "Killer Courses" was a mistake.

Sincerely,

Cecil C. Johnston

External Vice President

Florida Golf Course

Superintendent's Association