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Because you have successfully mixed chemicals in the past is no guarantee that you can continue to in the future. Active ingredients are seldom incompatible. It usually is the chemicals used to formulate the product and formulation change from time to time.

COMPATIBILITY TESTS

The first thing to do to determine compatibility is to read the label. If the label states that the pesticide should not be mixed, discard the idea. However, the label will not always tell you if it can be mixed with other chemicals. In these cases, first make a jar test. Simply make the mixture in a quart jar and observe what happens over the next half hour. If unusual separation or settling out of materials occur, it probably is not wise to make the mixture.

The second test is to first try the mixture on a small area of grass where you will not be disturbed if problems occur. You always should follow this procedure when using a mixture for the first time.

Compatibility charts are available from several sources and serve as a valuable aid. They are not all inclusive and they do not include all formulations of a product. It is wise to use the grass test even if the chart shows the mixture to be compatible.

PRECAUTIONS FOR MIXING PESTICIDES

1. Never mix pesticides in concentrated form. Mix them in the tank already filled with water and with the agitation system running.
2. Do not mix organic fungicides with other pesticides that contain xylene as a solvent.
3. When mixing pesticides of different formulation, the order of mixing should be wettable powders followed in order by flowable products, water soluble powders, surfactants and emulsifiable concentrates.
4. Do not mix pesticides with materials that cause high tank pH levels without thoroughly investigating compatibility.
5. When using a pesticide mixture for the first time, do a jar and a grass test before using the mixture on critical grass areas.

6. When tank mixing pesticides and fertilizers, use urea in preference to other water-soluble nitrogen sources.

*R.W. Miler is currently with Chemlawn Corp., Columbus, OH; J.F. Wilkinson is with Old Fox Lawn Care, East Providence, RI. ■

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Superintendents to Participate in New Championship

Golf course superintendents are pleased to be involved with PGA professionals, manager and presidents of the nation's country clubs in a national golf championship recently created by the John Deere Company.

The announcement was made by Riley L. Stottern, CGCS, president of the 7,000-member Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), with headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

The event — the John Deere/PGA Professional-Superintendent Championship — will feature four-man teams competing in a scramble format at the 41 PGA Sections throughout the country.

Qualifying is scheduled between June and September, with the 36-hole Championship in November. The date and site will be announced later. Teams will be made up of the PGA Professional, the club's course superintendent, club president and club manager.

"It is gratifying, and fitting," observed Stottern, "that superintendents are recognized as among the most important people in the game of golf. It is they who make and keep our nation's golf courses playable. Many superintendents play golf frequently not only because they enjoy the game and are good, but also because they know it is the best way to understand how to keep their courses in the best possible condition. "GCSAA thanks John Deere for its development of the tournament. Our members are looking forward with great enthusiasm to playing in it with the PGA professionals, club presidents and managers, who also are so essential to the game and industry."

Gary Gottschalk, manager of John Deere's Golf and Turf Division, said the firm is "excited about the concept. This program provides an opportunity for the club professional and club superintendent to play together on a team with other club officials. I am not aware of any other competition like it." ■

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