

Have you called any of your fellow superintendents lately? I have and most are too busy to talk for any length of time. It seems that all of them are like me... knee

deep in their summer cultural programs.

Aerifying, topdressing, verticutting, spraying for weeds and, of course, treating for that scourge, the filthy mole cricket.

It is fitting that we dedicate this issue to the dreaded mole cricket which wreaks havoc on the golf course community. Mr. Mole Cricket is a mindless imbecile whose sole purpose in life is to keep golf course

superintendents awake at

night and keep the chemical manufacturers busy peddling their wares.

Not only are the chemical companies busy, but also those chemical application companies are working night and day doing jobs most of us used to do. Their big spray tanks and slit applicators are rolling up and down the highways but how does their service really affect the golf course industry?

I believe that these companies can — and in some instances, do — hurt as much as they help. There are companies out there which put their profit margins ahead of the proper application of the product. I have heard more than one company representative boast that he can do an entire 18-hole, 125-acre golf course in one night.

“Wow,” I say to myself. “That golf course must have one hell of an irrigation system to water in all 125 acres immediately with half an inch of water as the label requires!”

I have never had the pleasure of operating a golf course which had such irrigation capacity. When I spray my chemicals which need one-half inch of water immediately, I always do six holes per night spread evenly throughout the golf course. It takes me three nights but I perform the application according to the label. As we all know, the label is the law.

Besides, there is a practical side to this.

To follow the label on the irrigation regimen requires so much time that when the system gets less than one quarter through the irrigation schedule, the remainder of the product yet to be irrigated has already dried on the leaf surface. So now you have reduced significantly the effect you will get from the chemical application you have just paid more than \$200 per acre for. But that matters little to the companies on the move, for they have another 125 acres to do down the road tonight.

I guess what really bothers me about the whole process is that we as a group are becoming contractors of our maintenance activities rather than operators of them. It is easy to go this route; anyone can contract out maintenance tasks. Hell’s bells, guys, your average club member can set up contracts to do this work! I personally like to do my own spraying, fertilizing, verticutting and aerifying. I take great pride in performing the jobs that are vital to the success of our maintenance operations. It is a disturbing trend which one day will take its toll on our profession.

Speaking of people making their living at our expense, what about that famous bird lover with the talk show on the radio?

You know, sometimes you earn great respect for people you have seen on TV or heard over the radio through the years. And

Please see MR. HARVEY, Page 14 ➔

How can you water 125 acres at once?

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