

Spraying

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helmets that resemble motorcycle helmets. The helmets blow filtered air over the head and face of the operator.

They are much more comfortable to wear, plus they eliminate the skin/mask interface where pesticides can be trapped and absorbed into the operator's skin.

Perception is also reduced because the helmet appears to be a driving-related safety device and is not perceived as a threat.

A tractor or truck cab pressurized with filtered air will also create less anxiety, as well as improve operator protection and comfort.

Next, the applicator must dress his people in either blue, green or brown. Other colors — especially white, yellow and red — connote danger.

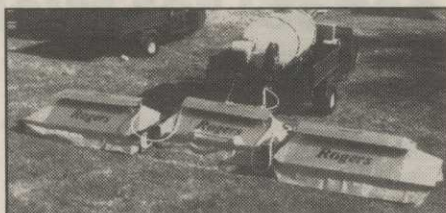
Finally, excess noise and odor also raise public anxiety. Everything possible should be done to eliminate the anxiety initiators.

Kapalua Golf Course in Hawaii uses 15- and 20-foot shrouded boom sprayers.

It is located on the windy north shore of Maui. Superintendent Short Honma needed to remove the wind limitation.

Honma said, "The (sprayers) have increased operational efficiency and reduced jogger and residential complaints."

Being able to spray in the wind lets Honma schedule spraying at the most optimum time, plus he reduced water use from 100 gallons/acre to 25 gallons/acre, which means less filling, less compaction and more time spraying. He also found he could get equal control with half as much of some pesticides, thus reducing



A type of shrouded boom.

the environmental impact.

To mitigate the pesticide issue it is not enough to simply apply pesticides safely and comply with regulations.

There are two components to this issue: safety and the public's perception of that safety.

For the most part, it is the public's perception that is initiating demands for added regulations. Most organizations abide by the regulations.

Public perception must be considered in everything that is done on the course to ensure that it does not create fear.

Drift, noise, odor, and gas masks initiate public anxiety and contribute to the perception of danger just like dogs' teeth.

Application and usage of pesticides must be shown as positive, with emphasis on improvement of course quality and the environment.

Follow all the safety regulations and only use pesticides when they are required to maintain course quality.

If spraying is undertaken, the superintendent should tell club members why and that it is in their interest.

R. Barry Rogers, MSc., PEng., is the president of Rogers Engineering Inc. of Saskatoon, Sask.

Survey: 97% of courses have licensed applicators

A nationwide survey of golf courses employing members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America shows that 97 percent have at least one licensed pesticide applicator.

Conducting the survey to gauge compliance with federal and state regulations, the GCSAA said the results "provide strong evidence of our members' commitment to safety and sound ecological practices."

Government relations manager Tom Akins said: "GCSAA strongly supports the position that only properly trained and educated personnel should be allowed to purchase and apply any restricted-use chemicals. Even though most golf courses don't apply any restricted-use materials, we are pleased that the survey shows that an overwhelming majority of our membership has taken this extra step."

Of the 1,157 superintendents who responded to the survey, 1,061, or about 92 percent, are licensed pesticide applicators. Another five percent who are not licensed themselves have a licensed person on their staff.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act mandates certification for pesticide application. Each state must implement its own certification guidelines and programs, which must comply with FIFRA.

"The importance of training and certification to individual communities really ties in to the concept of 'Think globally — act locally,' " Akins said. "The survey showed that individual superintendents take seriously their commitment to the environment and are working hard in communities throughout the United States to make sure that their operations are as safe as possible."

Hale Irwin Golf Services doubles space

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc., an international golf course design, development and management company, doubled its headquarters size (to 3,000 square feet) in a move to Manchester/270 Office Center (Building I) in St. Louis, Mo. The new offices overlook the atrium lobby of the luxury office building by Kelley Properties, Inc.

The firm's new address is 12444 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 284. Its phone number is 965-8787.

Founded in 1986 by Irwin, a PGA Tour professional and golf course designer, the company designs private, resort and public courses as well as golf communities worldwide. It also provides management and operational support to existing golf courses.

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