

# Metam-sodium applicators now must be certified, EPA reports

All individuals associated with use of the pesticide metam-sodium must now wear protective clothing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the principal registrants of metam-sodium reached an agreement on the requirement. Use around the home will be prohibited unless applied by a certified applicator.

The announcement is based on EPA's review of animal studies, which show that exposure of individuals (particularly pregnant women) under current use practices may pose a risk of birth de-

fects in the offspring.

Metam-sodium, registered since 1954, is a fumigant used before planting as a pesticide to control weeds, nematodes, fungi, bacteria and insects in the soil. The primary uses include agriculture and lawn grasses, flowers, fruit trees, grapevines and nursery stock. Approximately seven million to 12 million pounds are used annually, nearly half in agriculture.

EPA's review of the studies was prompted by the July 14 spill of thousands of gallons of metam-so-

dium into the Sacramento River near Dunsmuir, Calif.

"The actions we are announcing are primarily precautionary," said William K. Reilly, EPA administrator.

The two developmental toxicity studies on animals, which resulted in the protective measures being taken, are not considered to be fully adequate to fulfill EPA's requirements for reregistration. However, the agency does consider the studies useful to provide estimates of possible risk from exposure to this chemical.

Under terms of the agreement:

- Mixers, loaders, applicators or any other persons who may come into direct contact with this pesticide will be required to wear properly fitting respirators; body covering, which includes long sleeves and long pants; and chemical resistant gloves and boots.

- Workers entering treated fields within 48 hours following application will be required to wear chemical resistant footwear and body covering including long sleeves and long pants. Respirators and chemical resistant

gloves are to be immediately available and used by these workers if they are likely to come into direct contact with the pesticide.

Registrants of metam-sodium products included in the agreement are ICI Americas Inc. of Wilmington, Del.; Amvac Chemical Co. of Los Angeles; Buckman Labs Inc. of Memphis, Tenn.; Oregon-California Chemicals Inc. of Junction City, Ore.; and UCB Chemicals Corp. of Norfolk, Va. These registrants account for well over 90 percent of metam-sodium production.

## Frye

Continued from page 18

"I'm an extremely quality-conscious individual," he said. "We used every resource available to get the most out of this golf course. A desire for quality is an important trait. To maintain a golf course properly you want to complement the design with sound management practices that bring out the true character of that design."

And what kind of course was Frye left with once the Ryder Cup hoopla died down?

"Pete didn't want to leave us with a maintenance nightmare and he didn't," Frye said. "The turf areas are relatively easy to maintain. It's the natural areas, particularly the dunes, that are the most difficult."

"This is a very sensitive piece of property. We have to spend the time and money to protect the natural areas, fowl and wildlife that make it special."

The total annual maintenance budget for the four courses runs between \$2.3 million and \$2.4 million. The Ocean Course and Turtle Point are the most expensive to maintain. Osprey Point and Marsh Point cost a little less.

Among Frye's 60 employees are head superintendents at each course—Jeff Stone at Marsh Point, Rich Abbott at Turtle Point, Wayne Sellers at Osprey Point and Steve Miller at the Ocean Course.

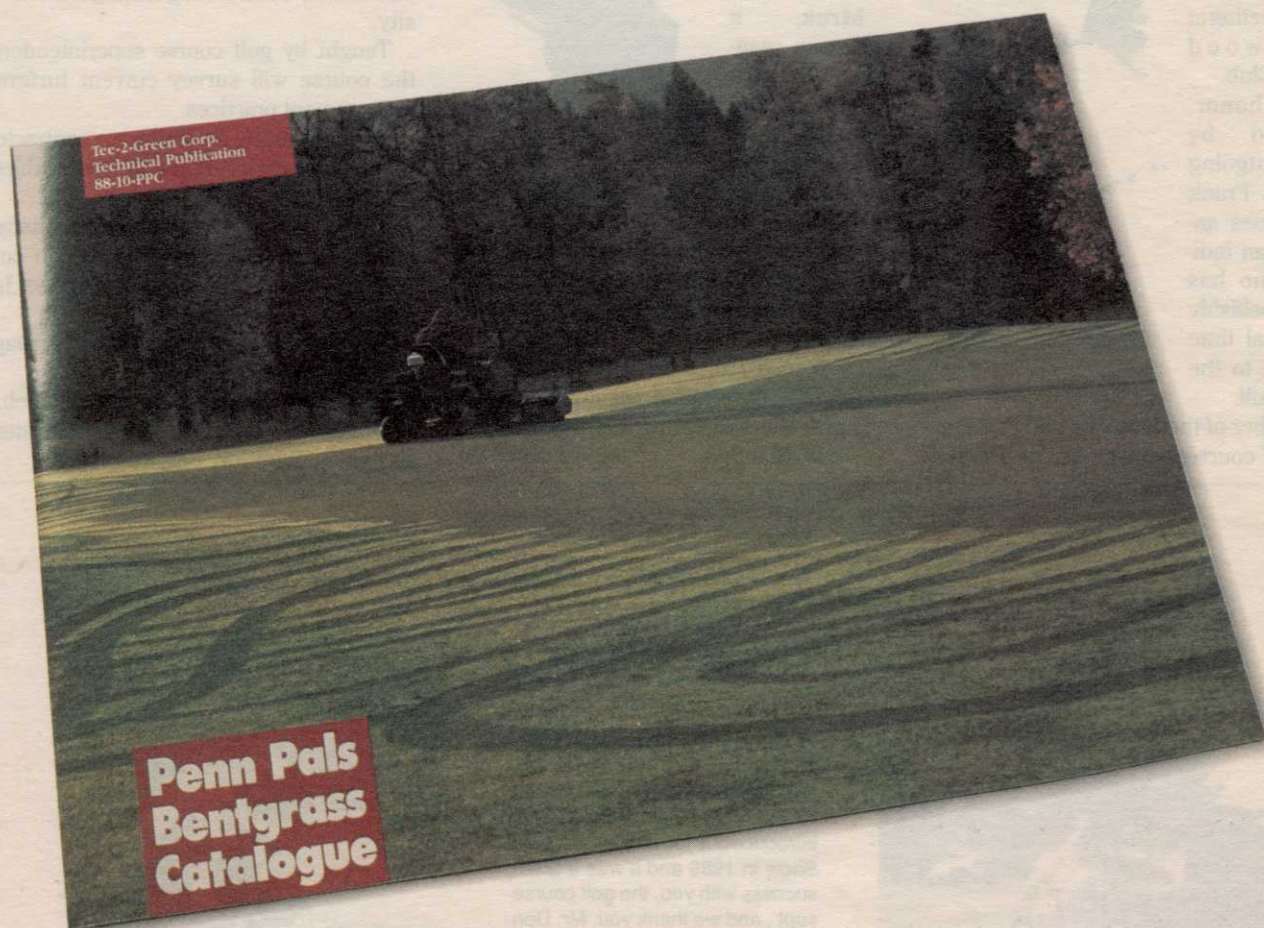
A new course has sprung up every four to five years at Kiawah since Marsh Point became the island's first 18 in 1976. Enough acreage is available at Turtle Point for another nine or possibly 18 holes, Frye said.

"I enjoy taking a course from beginning to end, producing something that is compatible with good maintenance practices," Frye said. "It's fun visualizing how things could be, putting a green here, figuring how you'd mow around a bunker there."

Whether it will be financially troubled Landmark or someone else who develops that land remains to be seen.

"Not knowing what the destiny of current management will be is somewhat troubling," Frye said. "But Kiawah is such a well-planned and developed facility that it will remain one of the top resorts on the East Coast, regardless of who owns it."

# BEFORE YOU BUY JUST ANY BENTGRASS, GO BY THE BOOK.



Phone 1-800-547-0255 today for your complimentary copy of the Penn Pals catalogue. You'll see why Penncross, Penneagle, PennLinks and Pennway blend set the standard for bentgrass on golf courses.

**Tee-2-Green Corp.**

PO Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032

FAX 503-981-5626

1-800-547-0255