

EPA promises betterments with data on pesticide handlers

'Generic database' predicts exposure in particular jobs

The Environmental Protection Agency, Health and Welfare Canada and the National Agricultural Chemicals Association have developed a generic database to predict the pesticide exposure experienced by mixers, loaders and applicators of pesticides.

The Pesticide Handlers Exposure Database (PHED), contains exposure and related data on a large number of workers engaged in mixing, loading and applying pesticides.

With PHED, pesticide exposures to workers can be estimated for different combinations of factors such as field application method (e.g., airblast, groundboom, aerial), mixing/loading method (i.e., open or closed), level of protective clothing being worn, type of pesticide formulation used (e.g., emulsifiable concentrate, wettable powder, granule), type of cab used (e.g., open or closed), and others.

In developing the database, the task force determined that PHED could be used as an exposure assessment tool for a variety of pesticide-related activities including exposure assessments, pesticide registration and reregistration, risk management and research.

EPA said PHED promises to offer numerous advantages including:

- potential reduction in costs for meeting registration and reregistration requirements;
- greater certainty in pesticide exposure assessments because estimates are based on a larger data pool;
- consistency in exposure estimates; and
- assistance in guiding current and future exposure research efforts by identifying significant data gaps.

PHED costs \$250 and can be obtained by contacting Tim Leighton, Versar Inc., 6850 Versar Center, Springfield, Va. 22151; 800-283-7727.

Palmer Management adds maintenance to services offered

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. has signed agreements with The Kildare Hotel and Country Club in Ireland and Formosa Country Club and Formosa Yang Mei Country Club in Taiwan to provide golf course maintenance services, APGMC Chief Operating Officer Robert Holzman announced.

Recently, APGMC began offering agronomy — golf course maintenance planning and services — a la carte. The agronomy unit, headed by Jim Ellison, works closely with Palmer Course Design Co.

Agronomy services include staff placement, national account programs, complete course grooming, tournament preparation and environmental turf management, including the proper use of water, fertilizer and chemicals.

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THROW A KILLER LAWN PARTY.

Buffalograsses showing well

Dr. Terry Riordan of the University of Nebraska reported that new varieties of Buffalograss are showing unbelievable promise in that region of the country.

Riordan told a regional U.S. Golf Association conference that two specific varieties — Prairie and 809 — are displaying almost unlimited potential in many different turf situations. Buffalograss fairways are performing admirably at a cut of 5/8 of an inch, he said, and are consuming less water at this lower classification as a warm-season grass.

These varieties are showing excellent heat and cold tolerance, and may even rival Bermudagrass in its aggressive nature, he said.

Bylaw changes subject of talks

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America officers and directors will speak at chapter meetings around the country to inform members about proposed changes to the organization's bylaws.

The proposal embodies recommendations of two committees addressing how GCSAA could best meet the future needs of the association, the profession and the industry.

Unanimously supported by the board of directors, the recommendations include instituting an individual voting system and giving the board the authority to determine membership classifications, requirements and dues structures.

Representatives are scheduled to talk Sept. 21 at the Iowa GCSA in Bettendorf; Oct. 5 at the Central Illinois GCSA in Champaign; Nov. 10 at the Mid-Atlantic Association of GCSA in Phoenix, Md.; Nov. 17 at the Carolinas GCSA in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Jan. 6-7 at the Indiana GCSA in Indianapolis; and Jan. 12 at the Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation in Omaha.