

## Few firms manufacture rodenticides

Following are names, addresses, telephone numbers and contact people (when available) at rodenticide manufacturers and distributors appearing in the 1992 *Golf Course News Buyer's Guide* and elsewhere:

**The Andersons**  
1200 Dussel Dr.  
Maumee, OH 43537  
419-891-6320  
Circle No. 201

**Bell Laboratories**  
3699 Kinsman Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-241-0202  
Joe Laurin  
Circle No. 202

**Brewer Environmental Industries**  
311 Pacific St.  
Honolulu, HI 96810  
808-532-7400  
Carolyn Ambrose  
Circle No. 203

**ICI Americas Inc.**  
Righter Pkwy.  
Delaware Corp. Ctr II  
Wilmington, DE 19897  
302-886-1000  
Jim Petta, Charles Nash  
Circle No. 204

**Lesco Inc.**  
20005 Lake Rd.  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
216-333-9250  
Allen Crowder  
Circle No. 205

**Motomco Ltd.**  
3699 Kinsman Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-244-2904  
Bill Pohlson  
Circle No. 206

**Regal Chemical Co.**  
P.O. Box 900  
Alpharetta, GA 30239  
404-475-4837  
Circle No. 207

**Southeastern Turf Grass Supply Inc.**  
6942 Phillips Pkwy.  
N. Jacksonville, FL 32256  
904-260-8565  
Bob Wicker, Jeff Mobley  
Circle No. 208

**Van Waters & Rogers Chemical**  
P.O. Box 4579  
Houston, TX 77210  
713-644-1601  
Tony Smith  
Circle No. 209

**Wilco Distributors Inc.**  
P.O. Box 291  
Lompoc, CA 93438  
805-735-2476  
Donald W. Willis  
Circle No. 210

# Rodenticides: A pesty PR problem for supers

By PETER BLAIS

The public may not like fungicides or insecticides, but no one mourns the passing of fungi or bugs.

Not so prairie dogs, ground squirrels, voles and even mice. Thus the use of rodenticides can be a more ticklish situation.

"I've found that people complain a lot less if I contract with a company to remove animals than if we do it ourselves," said Dennis Lyon, the city of Aurora (Colo.) manager of golf.

Public relations is a problem. Yet so are rodents, both to playing conditions and golfers themselves. Prairie dogs, for instance, may appear cute and cuddly. But their holes have caused broken legs and sprained ankles. And they are carriers of the virus that causes bubonic plague, Lyon noted.

Club members have little patience with a superintendent who allows voles to leave burrows running through the center of a green without taking action.

And cash-strapped cities would soon bid *sayonara* to the super who allowed mice and rats to merrily eat their way through stored supplies of grass seed.

So, whether they choose to treat the problem themselves or contract out, dealing with rodenticides is part of a superintendent's job.

Rodenticides come in several forms, according to Allen Crowder, LESCO's product manager for pest control.

*I've found that people complain a lot less if I contract with a company to remove animals than if we do it ourselves.'*

— Dennis Lyon

Generally they take the form of meal, pelleted bait, loose pills or individual place packs.

Some are effective with a single feeding while others require the rodent to return to the serving table several times. Single-feed products are generally more expensive, but also more effective, Crowder noted.

Different active ingredients have different effects, Crowder explained. Rodenticides containing bromadiolone are anticoagulants that cause the animal to eventually bleed to death. Zinc phosphide-based products create an internal gas build-up that is deadly to the pest. And vitamin D-3 causes bodily functions to accelerate until the rodent's body simply quits.

Some products are effective against a few animals, while others can be used against a broad spectrum. Bromadiolone is used in rodent baits for mice and rats, according to the Farm Chemicals Handbook. Zinc phosphide, meanwhile, takes on rats, mice, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, voles, moles and gophers.

Moles are the primary four-legged pest bedeviling golf course

superintendents, according to Robert Corrigan, a vertebrate pest specialist at Purdue University.

"They are a significant problem in most parts of the U.S.," Corrigan said. "They push up mounds and tunnels, sometimes right up onto greens."

Moles are technically insectivores, not rodents. Rodenticides are sometimes effective against them, but not always. Traps sometimes work better and are available at any hardware store, Corrigan said.

Traps and glue boards are also frequently used in seed storage areas to control mice and rats, Crowder added.

"I can't imagine a place that stores seed that doesn't have a potential mouse problem," Crowder said.

Lyon deals with this by storing little if any seed.

"We try to buy only what we plan to use right away," he said.

If that isn't possible, there are precautions superintendents can take. Lyon stores what little extra seed he has in 55-gallon metal drums. Corrigan recommended making seed inaccessible by keeping it elevated 12 inches off the floor on a metal rack located away from walls.

If rodenticides are used, then store them separately from other chemicals.

"If a rodenticide picks up the odor of another chemical, the rodents may not like it and make the rodenticide ineffective," Crowder explained.

## Relocation expert: 'Golf courses are a fair market for us'

By PETER BLAIS

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — Roger Helgeson was a full-time fur trapper working Colorado's Front Range 13 years ago.

"I noticed a lot of people were having pest [small animal] problems. They'd try everything until finally they'd end up calling somebody like me," said the operator of Animal Relocators.

Foxes, raccoons, muskrats, prairie dogs, skunks, squirrels, bees. You name it, Helgeson was being called on to remove it. In between checking his fur traps, that is.

Being an entrepreneur at heart, he soon realized catching and relocating small animals was a potential business by itself. He started on a part-time basis. "But within four to five months, I was at it full time," he said.

Over the past baker's-dozen years, Helgeson has added two full-time and three part-time employees.

Working primarily from Castle Rock north to Longmont, Helgeson has been contracted by Highland Hills Municipal Golf Course in Greeley (skunks), Rolling Hills Country Club in Golden (muskrat), Columbine Country Club in Littleton (bees, fox, raccoon) and Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock (bees).

"Golf courses have been a pretty fair market for us," the former trapper said. "There just aren't that many people who do what we do."

What Helgeson tries to do is take animals out alive. That isn't always possible, especially in the case of bees and muskrats.

"We generally use kill traps for muskrats," he explained. "They are hard enough to catch. And there's no one who wants them relocated onto their property."

Relocating animals, rather than killing them, is good public relations. In fact, the thought of even catching the poor creatures is so distasteful to some, that many superintendents prefer to turn the job over to an outside contractor rather than do it themselves and face the wrath of members, neighbors and the public.

"One sure thing in this business is that

no matter what you do or how you do it, someone won't approve when it comes to moving animals," Helgeson said.

The other predictable thing is that animals are always unpredictable.

"We've had some very difficult times removing foxes," Helgeson said. "And if you corner a skunk in the wrong place..."

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