

## Dursban

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"I think we were able, through the GCSAA and some local grass roots groups, to demonstrate the kind of qualifications we have, and how we have to stay licensed, and they saw value in that," Ihms said. "I went to a few sessions with regulators when they were taking input from the field. They understand that we're very care-

ful with these products and well-trained in their use. They had been talking about pulling Dursban from the market for turf grasses, but they came back and allowed us to use it, albeit at a lower rate."

The industry needs to establish strong credibility with the EPA, Ihms added, because more scrutiny of chemicals is coming, under the 1996 Food Quality and Protection Act. ■

## Piersol

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teacher was searching for a learning lab to teach students about soils, plants, fertilizers, insect and disease identification. Jeff contacted the instructor and invited him to use his golf course as a field laboratory, and the relationship began.

Today, the high school kids volunteer at Jeff's course, and

he hires some of them part-time. As part of their high school class, students are assigned certain planting beds at Jeff's course, where they are free to design and plant various annuals throughout the year. The students learn horticulture, and Jeff adds color to his course.

I asked him about the situation of kids under age 18 operating power equipment. He said it was no problem, as long as they

were under the supervision of their teacher as part of a class. Of course, state laws vary, so you probably ought to contact your club's attorney about the proper procedures.

Jeff also discovered that limited school budgets often prevented the students from doing much, and his club came to the rescue. Often, by buying a few hundred dollars of supplies or equipment, he could keep the high school program active and the students enthused. He and the ag teachers have developed a good rapport, which has been exciting, fun, and educational for everyone.

What Jeff Gullikson is doing is right on target. Such involvement creates excitement about golf courses and all the career opportunities that the industry has to offer. Not only can students learn the agronomy and horticulture involved in golf course work, but also, by showing students a neat, organized shop, you might be able to lead someone into a career as a turf equipment technician.

When you have high school students working on the course as part of a class, you – the superintendent – gets a chance to look over the "crop." From this part-time employee pool may emerge someone you would like to keep.

Lack of career awareness, especially with regard to turf equipment techs, is a major problem. Students can't ask about careers about which they know nothing. Getting involved with a local high school, especially if it has agriculture and/or mechanics, can pay big dividends. I am convinced that increasing the number of turf equipment technicians hinges on such involvement. Doing some high school recruiting will be good for the entire industry as well as for the individual superintendent involved.

If you'd like, call Jeff (509-467-6211) or me (904 752-1822 ext. 1225) to brainstorm about how to get started. ■

*John R. Piersol, M.S., chairs the Division of Golf/Landscape/Forestry at Lake City Community College, in Lake City, Fla.*

### ADAM PIERCE WINS SCHOLARSHIP

ELWOOD, Ill. — Adam Pierce, a junior in the University of Illinois turfgrass management program, has been awarded the \$7,500 Ben Warren Scholarship from Tyler Enterprises of Elwood. After graduation, he hopes to work as an assistant golf course superintendent. Pierce has already worked at country clubs in Michigan and Illinois and has a strong academic record. The late Ben Warren owned Warren's Turf Nursery, a turfgrass research company based in Palos Park, Ill.

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