

The Grass Roots

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President's Message

Each year, the Golf Course Superintendent faces the beginning of golf season with a skeleton crew for ground clean-up and preparation of the course for play. This has to be done in a very short period of time with the limited use of power equipment because of possible damage to the soft, wet turf. This is, indeed, a very trying time for the turf manager in Wisconsin.

The golfer has been in a warm, sunny climate through the winter months or has been watching the Masters Tournament at Augusta on television.

He is anxiously waiting to play golf on his course. He can not understand, once he is finally allowed on the course, [which costs a fortune to play] why conditions are not up to his expectations. For example, "Why aren't the benches out?" "Where are all the ballwashers?" "What

caused those "burned out" areas on number 7 fairway?" He bitterly complains about the bad lie he had yesterday in a divot which should have been repaired. Another question: "Why aren't we playing "Winter Rules" [~~Preferred Lies~~] in April. He is told that the Golf Committee makes the rules and has decided that "Winter Rules" [~~Preferred Lies~~] is not golf. However, the golfer is not satisfied with that explanation because the bad lie cost him the loss of a "Nassua" and a "skin" that he, of course, otherwise would have won. He does not respond well to that "Rub of the Green" business. Further, no one is going to convince him that he should take a lesson on how to hit down and through the ball and that he really should be more educated about the "Rules of Golf".

Soon, the golf course management operation will be performing smoothly. The shrubs, trees, flowers and *Poa annua* will be in full bloom, satisfying everyone. It will be fun to go to the golf course early in the morning and enjoy the serenity and the beauty of a piece of land, while others are driving to their downtown offices through heavy traffic with horns blowing, cab drivers cursing and migraine headaches developing.

Best wishes. Have an enjoyable and a successful season.

WAYNE OTTO

EPA Action

After setting the most minimal standards possible for individual states to comply with in order to train and certify pesticide applicators [witness Wisconsin's Ornamental and Turf Pest Control and Aquatic Pest Control tests], the Environmental Protection Agency has or is in the process of taking RPAR [Rebuttable Presumption Against Registration] action against several pesticides used in the golf turf management field. Included in this RPAR are materials such as Benomyl, Carbaryl [Sevin], Disodium Methanearsonate [DSMA], Maleic hydrazide, Monodosium methanearsonate [MSMA], PCNB, Trichlorophon [Proxol], and 2,4,5-T and related compounds.

Although golf turf is only a small part of the total pesticide market, all Golf Course Superintendents and courses will suffer if these materials are either restricted or prohibited. According to Larry Munsenmaier, DuPont Chemical Co., what is needed is "benefit" support information, submitted in letter form to the EPA. All correspondence of "benefit" support nature should address the following questions:

- 1 Name of specific crops and diseases.
- 2 Effect on crop yields and/or quality if no material were used.
- 3 Availability, comparative effectiveness and cost of alternative materials.
- 4 Effects that loss of materials would have on ability to grow crops. Would it