

You may wish to give your unwanted product to someone who could use it. Some smaller golf courses could benefit from "Old" fertilizer that requires breaking up due to the fact that it has become "hard as a brick". Look for products that are less toxic but are as effective as those used previously. Dispose of old paint products by using them up. Some landfills cannot or will not accept paint cans half full of unused paint, yet will accept a piece of plywood, once cut up of course, if it has been painted with this same paint!

Some municipal or county courses may qualify for special aid awarded to communities that have organized clean sweep programs. Other courses might wish to organize with neighboring courses into small cells that can be easily serviced by hazardous waste contractors. The costs of transportation can be shared among several courses.

Use companies that will recycle the waste produced in your service centers.

There are companies that sell parts cleaning solvents and wash stations. Those stations are serviced on a routine schedule with the company responsible for the hauling away the spent product. They will distill and reuse the solvents over again. This reduces your liability substantially.

Staying on top of all the regulations is laborious and time consuming. In putting together this article, it became very apparent to me the enormous amounts of information available to superintendents wishing to clear out "that corner of the shop". Read, stay on top of the current laws as there is a battery of deadlines constantly showing up on the horizon as landfills fall prey to stiffer regulations.

Your most important step will be your

first one, that is to just get started. Take note of the products you wish to dispose of and determine if you will require professional help. Budget for disposal costs in next year's budget. If you need help, contact the DNR, UW-Extension or your local emergency government coordinators for information. They will be able to supply you with lists of companies that dispose of hazardous waste and help you with other problems you might have.

The rules may seem complicated. The ink hasn't even dried on a few of them yet. But it is imperative that you develop and implement a strategy to comply with them. "Out of sight, out of mind" is just plain ignorance today. Get those products out of your service centers today.

A recent GRASSROOTS survey told me you could use the extra storage space anyway.

GCSAA Regional Seminar Gets Good Marks

By Tom Schwab

Just being a certified pesticide applicator was not enough for the 45 or so superintendents and assistants in attendance at the GCSAA/WGCSA Pesticide Basics & Safety seminar. They took the time to learn even more about the safe handling of these materials. The seminar was held on March 21 at the Holiday Inn in Brookfield, and was conducted by Dr. Bert Bohmont, professor and coordinator of pesticide programs for the College of Agriculture Sciences at Colorado State University.

A broad range of material was covered throughout the day, everything from laws to better spraying equipment to dealing with the media. The day started out with a discussion about 15 laws that govern pesticide applicators. Time was spent covering OSHA's "Hazard Communication Standard", Employee right-to-know. For a great description of "HCS" see Larry Lennert's article in the March/April issue of *The Grass Roots*.

Dr. Bohmont's talk revealed manufacturers are responding to the need to apply chemicals more safely. This is being done in several ways, such as reducing drift either mechanically or chemically, controlling rates better by computerized calibration, more pest specific pesticides that can be less toxic, better pest predicting models and methods, and safer packaging.

Other material that was covered in Dr. Bohmont's talk was understanding

pesticide labels, protective clothing and equipment, environmental concerns, decontamination and disposal.

Some of this material was an extension of what superintendents learned when getting certified for pesticide application. A lot more was new information. Whether it was repetition or new,

it was all good information that we could use. In this industry, superintendents have to stay on top of this information since we handle many pesticides and are responsible for a much larger piece of the environment than the average person.

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