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Use of low-pressure, large droplet nozzles is very effective in controlling drift. But research at Maryland has shown that with these nozzles and especially those with large droplets, the amount of spray remaining on foliage is very low. Consequently, weed kill by contact herbicides is significantly less.

Grass clipping management continues to receive attention. Research being conducted at North Carolina State University has revealed the not-too-surprising fact that substantial N leaching losses occur from turfgrass clipping compost piles. Losses from open piles have been up to 31 times greater than from covered piles. Now that this research has disclosed yet one more non-point source of N pollution, what's next? Regulations that require impervious composting pads and leachate collection basins? Perhaps some enterprising person will do just that, collect and bottle the leachate and become rich. My guess is that the leachate would be as good a biostimulant as some of those currently on the market.

A final topic being researched is the effects that various turf products have on soil chemical and physical properties. In Georgia, a wide array of N carriers, some inorganic, some synthetic organics and some natural organics, were found to differ very little in their effects on soil properties. Among several properties investigated, only soil cation exchange capacity (CEC) showed some N carrier effects. All N carriers increased soil CEC due to stimulation of turfgrass growth and subsequent increases in soil organic matter. Natural organic N carriers generally increased soil CEC more than did SCU.

The common claim that wetting agents reduce soil compaction and improve turfgrass growth was also studied. Several wetting agents applied to tall fescue growing in compacted and non-compacted soil had no influence on turfgrass quality where the soil was compacted. When applied to the non-compacted soil, the wetting agents reduced the moisture content in the top 12 inches of soil, reduced rooting by 44 to 58% on two occasions at the 12- to 24-inch soil depth and had no influence on turfgrass quality.

Dr. Throssell, Purdue University, presented a very interesting paper on the use of herbicides to control weeds in spring turfgrass seedings. I'm going to assume that he will share this information with us as a featured speaker at the WTA Winter Turfgrass Conference. 🍀

Legal Matters



How To Address Local Laws

Timely Tips for Golf Course Superintendents

By Dr. Winand K. Hock
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Editor's Note: This concise piece of advice was given to participants at the GCSAA "Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management" seminar in Fon du Lac in early November. It is reprinted here with permission from Dr. Hock. Again, when you have legal questions or need advice, consult your organization's attorney.

If local regulators are considering enacting pesticide ordinances in your community, consider the following:

Before a local ordinance is proposed:

- Get help! Don't think that you alone can convince your regulators to drop or modify their plan to regulate pesticides at the local level. Solicit support from other golf course superintendents as well as from lawn care professionals, landscapers, arborists, nurserymen, pest control operators, utility companies, and the agricultural community at large. Remember, local regulation could affect all pesticide users, even homeowners.
- Make sure local legislators know that current federal and state laws, developed by regulators with scientific and technical expertise not available on the local level, already afford sufficient protection.
- If your state law requires posting and/or pre-notification, make sure your local officials know of their existence.
- If health and/or environmental issues are raised by local regulators and well-meaning, but often misinformed, residents, get the facts to counter their position. Refer to relevant university and governmental agency studies to support your position. Have copies available for distribution. GCSAA and your state land-grant university may be able to help. Avoid using documentation and publications generated by the pesticide industry. Although quite accurate, such information is suspect in the public's eye.

- Point out that with the possible exception of human pharmaceuticals, no other class of chemicals receives such thorough health and environmental testing than pesticides. Industry often spends in excess of \$50 million and takes 7 to 10 years to develop a new product. Only after EPA reviews the data and registers the pesticide can it be sold.

What if local regulators still want to move ahead with a bill:

- Offer to work with the local government regulators to pass a bill you can live with.
- Be sure to consider very carefully any posting and pre-notification provisions. Although these may be directed primarily at the lawn care industry, can you as golf course superintendents live with such proposals or should you try to exclude golf courses from some of these provisions?

What steps can you take to change local regulation authority?

- Above all, support state and federal pesticide proposals to preempt local regulation authority in this area. Several states are contemplating modifications to their pesticide law to preempt communities from passing their own restrictive local ordinances. 🍀

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