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OPTIMIZING PEST MANAGEMENT: "Strategies to Maximize Results"

By Monroe S. Miller

"Familiar faces talking about current topics" is a phrase appropriate for the 24th annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium that was held October 25th and 26th in Milwaukee. Dr. Clint Hodges, Dr. Bob Shearman, Dr. Joe Troll and Jim Latham have addressed previous symposiums. New names added to the all-time roster of speakers were Dr. Mike Villani from Cornell University, Holman Griffin, Al Nees and Guy Auxer. This group, combined with session chairmen Mike Handrich, Marc Davison and Scott Schaller and WGCSA president Roger Bell, presented material that was extremely timely for the era we now work in. For those who weren't able to attend (or just didn't), our regrets.

As Roger Bell pointed out in his welcoming remarks, compliments were due to those attending when the weather was so nice because the symposium was where the serious golf course superintendent should be. Sometimes education must take precedence. Two other good points were made by Bell:

1. Meetings like the symposium help golf course superintendents to think and to plan rather than react;
2. Much of our work during the season is done alone. The symposium gives us a chance to mix with our colleagues.

Holman Griffin was an agronomist for the USGA Green Section for 15 years, so he is certainly familiar with our business. That experience is now complemented with a different kind of turfgrass management — that of the Richardson, Texas school district. It is



WGCSA president Roger Bell complimented the excellent attendance despite the beautiful autumn weather.

a sensitive position to be in when pesticides are used — children, nervous teachers and administrators, and an occasionally unreasonable parent.

Griffin feels we are in serious danger of losing some of our best tools — pesticides. It's an unfortunate situation since many of them in their diluted condition are much less toxic than many household materials. "It seems one of our goals should be to get pesticides out of the amateur's hands," he said.

The training requirements and heavy regulatory hand have had their impact, however. It is hard to argue that pesticide use isn't safer today than 10 years ago. But more is needed. IPM should become more than just a vogue phrase; we need to make serious commitments to it. There is a place for research to develop products that will enhance pesticides and reduce the frequency of their use. Resistant turf spe-



Holman Griffin, Mike Handrich and Mike Villani.

cies selection and development deserve even more attention. Biological controls need advancement. More education of field people is required so judgments made by them will be more accurate. "We need to get beyond the range of normal vision and capitalize on opportunities," Griffin emphasized.

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