

Improve Pesticide Planning With Annual Calendar

If you could project up to a year in advance what types and amounts of pesticides you were likely to need, wouldn't your long range planning be more accurate?

Many turf managers find that the more common pests and diseases are most likely to surface at a particular time of year. By keeping track of these cycles, they can tell well ahead of time what provisions they need to make to counteract potential problems.

An efficient method for forecasting your pesticide needs is to create an ongoing annual calendar, divided into months or weeks, as appropriate. Go through your records of actual pesticide usage for the past several years, noting in your calendar when pests or disease historically have appeared on your course and what action was most effective against them.

In addition to past experience, you should enter data collected from local experts, including universities, consultants and other superintendents. This information will make you aware of developing problems.

Taken together, this information will give you a rather specific time frame in which to be alert for a given pest or disease. Weather may affect your timetable somewhat, but you should be able to maintain a schedule accurate within ten days.

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