

## NATURAL LOOK from Page 12

my fellow superintendents and others, or wrote about it, or was quoted in articles and magazines, the reaction by some was that I had lost my marbles. Most of the others didn't take me seriously. Some even wrote strongly against my "natural look" concept. But then something happened. The high cost of maintaining country clubs drastically accelerated in the 70's and rose each year at a relentless pace and everything changed. Concern set in about the high cost of maintaining golf courses, and slowly my idea of wildflowers and the natural look suddenly didn't sound so looney because it saved money. Now the elite golf course architects were the first to begin shouting its virtues whenever they broke expensive land for a new golf course. Something else happened, also. People began to be deeply concerned about our ecology and environment. Scientists who had been warning us for years about old Mother Earth and the dangers facing it due to too much technology and poisonous emissions began to be closely heeded. A little old lady from Texas began planting wildflowers along our highways and roads. The natural look was now definitely in!

Today I am happy to say thousands of golf courses have set aside natural areas to prosper and spread. Many golf courses enhance these restful areas even more (like I have) with beautiful native flowers and grasses. And, of course, golf course architects continue to build courses with that "Scottish Look". Landscape firms and seed companies are making a bundle by providing the natural look to golf courses, parks, industries, schools, highways, verges and even homeowners. The natural look has taken over in our landscape and not just grown and forgotten in old graveyards and railroad rights of way. The great Walter Hagen whose poignant quote, "Be sure to stop and smell the flowers as you go by", makes it easier for all of us now to do so. I am glad I had a part in providing this opportunity.



## HANDLING OF PESTICIDES

Hazards associated with exposure to chemical, physical and infectious agents are commonplace in today's environment. Serious injury, illness and even death can occur if we are not informed and aware of the potential risks we come into contact with every day.

A training package for golf course operations titled "Hazard Communication: Your Right To Know" is now available to members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The package contains two VHS video cassettes and a master file binder containing extensive training and chemical information.

Included in the program are the following:

- Glossary of Terms
- A Generic Preparatory Presentation
- Reference Materials Listing
- Safe Handling Guidelines
- Chemical Terminology
- Training Guidelines

This program has been designed to assist pesticide users in complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and State Right to Know Laws.

In providing those who deal with potential hazards the information needed to work safely with reduced exposure to chemical and physical risks, this program describes chemical labeling, types of toxicity and symptoms, methods of exposure, chemical agents, first aid, Material Safety Data Sheets and much more.

Manufacturers are required to make Material Safety Data Sheets or the equivalent for each hazardous agent in the workplace. The program describes the importance of this information and how to understand the knowledge that it provides.

For additional information, contact James G. Prusa, Associate Executive Director, GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66046.