

I'd like to express MGCSA's appreciation to all those that have contributed to our research fund this season. Research continues to be a driving force of our association, and for that reason, our superintendent members are among the most educated and well informed turf professionals in the world. That trend should continue. Vice President Scott Hoffmann is busy pursuing arrangements for a first annual Research Calloway Tournament which will help initiate a perpetuating research trust fund. My hope is that this idea will be well received by the host clubs and membership.

The long awaited Pest Control Law has been passed by the Minnesota Legislature and is now in effect. Enclosed in this issue of HOLE NOTES is a copy of Sec. 51 regarding pesticide application in cities and warning sign information. If questions arise regarding this law, you may call the office of Mr. Wayne Dally at the Mn. Dept. of Agriculture.

With the arrival of the infamous "July", one can take some comfort in the fact that the first Minnesota frost will occur in about the next 95 days.

PESTICIDE CONTROL LAW

Sec. 51. (18B.09) (Pesticide Application in Cities.)

Subdivision 1. (Applicability.) This section applies only to statutory and home rule charter cities that enact ordinances as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. (Authority.) Statutory and home rule charter cities may enact an ordinance containing the pesticide application warning information contained in subdivision 3, including their own licensing, penalty, and enforcement provisions. Statutory and home rule charter cities may not enact an ordinance that contains more restrictive pesticide application warning information than is contained in subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. (Warning signs for pesticide application.) (a) All commercial or noncommercial applicators who apply pesticides to turf areas must post or

affix warning signs on the property where the pesticides are applied.

(b) Warning signs must project at least 18 inches above the top of the grass line. The warning signs must be of a material that is rain-resistant for at least a 48-hour period and must remain in place up to 48 hours from the time of initial application.

(c) The following information must be printed on the warning sign in contrasting colors and capitalized letters measuring at least one-half inch, or in another format approved by the commissioner. The sign must provide the following information:

(1) the name of the business organization, entity, or person applying the pesticide; and

(2) the following language: "This area chemically treated. Keep children and pets off until (date of safe entry) " or a universally accepted symbol and text approved by the commissioner that is recognized as having the same meaning or intent as specified in this paragraph. The warning sign may include the name of the pesticide used.

(d) The warning sign must be posted on a lawn or yard between two feet and five feet from the sidewalk or street. For parks, golf courses, athletic fields, playground, or other similar recreational property, the warning signs must be posted immediately adjacent to areas within the property where pesticides have been applied and at or near the entrances to the property.

Weed Seed Per Square Foot of Soil

Good garden grade topsoil contains as many as 200 viable weed seeds per square foot of surface. These seeds are ready to germinate at any given time and represent only about 5 percent of the total weed seed present in the top 6 inches of soil. Thus, there are in excess of 1 potential weed for each square inch of your newly seeded or established lawn. Vigorous, healthy lawngrasses will not permit these weeds to become established. Named varieties of grasses are best for stopping weeds before they start.

