

GCSAA Examines Possible Human Exposure Study

GCSAA is examining the possibility of undertaking a major human pesticide exposure study.

If the association opts to conduct the study—a decision that will be made yet this year—it hopes to answer lingering questions about possible effects of chronic pesticide exposure.

Pat Jones, GCSAA director of development, is in charge of the association's study. Jones planned to call together a respected group of pesticide experts to discuss the scope of the proposed study and to finalize its methodology.

The group was to meet at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., and was to consist of federal regulators, a noted epidemiologist, industry officials, health experts and key GCSAA staff.

The study would examine the mortality records of GCSAA-member superintendents and compare them with statistics from the general population to determine if there are any unusual patterns.

"No independent group has ever sponsored as comprehensive a study as this," Jones says. "We are willing to accept an independent evaluation."

Jones also says that it makes sense to study chemical applicators because they come into more contact with pesticides than anyone else.

"Our main concern is for the health of members and employees who have primary exposure to undiluted pesticides," he explains. "This study of primary exposure should alleviate any concerns about golfers' health. The superintendent is the 'canary in the coal mine' who would be affected long before the golfer or golf course neighbor.

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EPA Plans Review of Inert Ingredients With Unknown Toxicity

Pesticide registrants would be required to submit to EPA data on inert ingredients with unknown toxicity that are used in pesticides, if the Office of Management and Budget approves an EPA request.

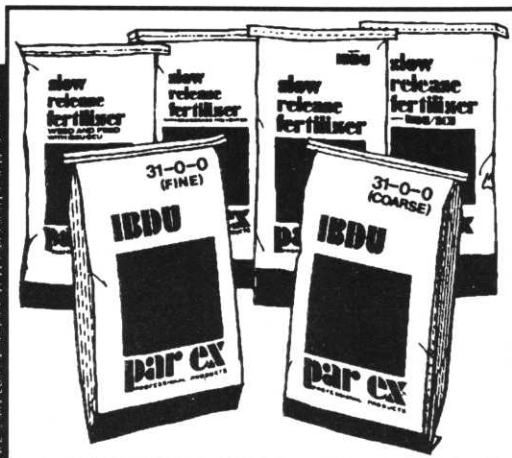
About 400 pesticide registrants would be affected by the measure.

Under FIFRA, registrants must report to EPA and keep records of data from studies conducted on registered pesticides. EPA then keeps four lists of inert ingredients ranging from greatest to least toxicological concern and collects data on List 1 and List 2 inerts.

Under the request pending with OMB, registrants would submit to EPA and keep records of any information on pesticides that contain List 3 inerts.

"The agency uses the information to assess whether the inert ingredients contained in pesticides may cause an unreasonable adverse effect on human health and the environment, and to determine whether to maintain the registration of a pesticide," the agency says.

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Human Exposure—

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There are two opposing caveats to this type of study," he says. "First, we cannot claim that research on superintendents represents the maximum exposure received by full-time applicators. On the other hand, the mortality group that would be studied are primarily superintendents who worked in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, before personal protection and careful handling were commonplace and safer products became available. Therefore, the research does present a 'worst-case scenario' when compared to the practices and products used today."

Jones adds that the study would serve as a starting point for GCSAA Scholarship & Research-sponsored studies of other specific questions, such as breast cancer among female golfers, cancer trends among PGA professionals and illnesses among golf course chemical applicators.

Jones says that he hopes the study would be in place late in 1992—if the focus group arrives at a workable plan.

Another human exposure study already under way is being conducted jointly by the National Cancer Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency. This exposure study is similar in nature, but focuses more on the agricultural use of pesticides. It will look at farmer exposure and will examine human exposure to pesticides through crop residue.

Although the study is aimed at agriculture, its findings could be significant to the turfgrass management industry as well.

The NCI/EPA study will look at the rate of disease in farmers compared to the general population. Some of the illnesses to be examined include non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer and leukemia.

Scientists will study more than 100,000 people—most of them farmers—in two or three states, who are registered to apply pesticides. The study could stretch three decades or more.

Scientists involved in the study say their findings should stretch far beyond the farm because many of the chemicals involved in the study are used by city dwellers as well.

The study will examine exposure to diesel fuels, animal viruses, paint and other chemicals, such as possible carcinogens in food.

Study organizers say results should provide insight on key questions that have gone unanswered for years because scientists lacked clear data on worker exposure to chemicals.

Most of the pesticide applicators to be included in the study will be farmers, their spouses and families. Other pesticide applicators—all registered—will include grain workers, lawn service crews, road crews and foresters.

Scientists will draw blood from participants, check it for chemicals and examine chromosomes to determine what effect—if any—chemical exposure has on humans.

Glatty Announces Formation of Twin City Seed Company

John C. Glatty, a 17-year seed industry executive, has announced the formation of Twin City Seed Company. Glatty is principal stockholder and president.

Twin City Seed is a distributor and marketer of all types of seed, with primary emphasis on professional turfgrass seed sales in the Midwest. Twin City Seed also represents and sells national seed company proprietaries and products to various classes of trade, including garden centers, lawn care companies, sod growers and other chains. Twin City Seed also distributes to the agricultural market.

Glatty was most recently Director of NK Lawn & Garden Co.'s Medalist Turf Division. He left that position to form Twin City Seed. He has worked for several regional and national seed companies including Whitney-Dickinson Seeds, Great Western Seed Co. and Lesco Inc.

Twin City Seed Company is headquartered at 7263 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55439.

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GCSAA Golf Championship Set January 23-24 In San Diego

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Golf Championship is headed for San Diego, Calif., for the first time. Tournament participants will be contending Jan. 23-24, 1993, for individual and chapter team honors.

A major annual event for the men and women who manage golf courses throughout the world, the GCSAA Championship is one of the largest association-sponsored golf tournaments in the nation.

The championship is scheduled for four courses in the San Diego area: Carlton Oaks Country Club, Eastlake Country Club, Mount Woodson Country Club and Steele Canyon Golf Club. It will be held prior to GCSAA's 64th International Golf Course Conference and Show, which is scheduled Jan. 23-30 in Anaheim.

Last year's championship, held in Jacksonville, Fla., saw the Georgia #1 and Midwest AGCS #2 teams win chapter team honors. Gary Bennett, certified golf course superintendent at Crickentree Golf Club in Blythewood, S.C., won the individual championship. Bennett is scheduled to defend his title in San Diego.