

It's the Dose

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water to determine how much volume is used in normal applications. If you're treating a lawn with a hose-connected sprayer, fill the unit with water and by trial and error determine how fast you need to walk and wave the sprayer to apply the proper quantities.

(5) **Mix and use only the amount of chemical required to treat the smallest area needed.** Combining the knowledge you have of the size of the area to be treated, the amount of chemical required by the label and the capacity of your application unit, prepare only the minimum amounts of chemical. "More is better" does not apply to chemical use.

(6) **Thoroughly wash all items used in the chemical application procedure.** If you've used a sprayer, partially fill it with water and spray the area you just treated, or other nearby similar areas. Repeat this two or three times. Do not just dump any extra chemicals into the sewer or onto the street. Although it may not be highly toxic, it could have a negative impact on the environment of a non-target.

(7) **Use common sense whenever you're using chemicals.** Window washing solutions and antifreeze are more toxic than yard chemicals a homeowner will use, so all chemicals should be treated with care and respect. Eating or smoking should be totally avoided until you have thoroughly washed with soap and water. If any chemicals are sprayed or splashed on you during their use, remove the garments and wash them separately from other clothing. When using chemicals outside, be sure that any toys (used by children or animals) are removed from the area to be treated so they won't be hit by the spray or drift.

(8) **Be a good neighbor by knowing special sensitivities of people, plants and pets.** Paracelsus, the Swiss physician and alchemist who lived during 1493-1541 noted, "What is there that is not a poison? Only the dose makes a substance not a poison."

Chlorine can kill or it can clean. Aspirin can relieve pain or cause death. For a very, very few people, sunlight can cause an allergic reaction that results in death. It's not the substance, but the dose that can harm.

Turfgrass pesticides are effective because they have been developed for use against a specific target. Herbicides kill weeds, fungicides control diseases and insecticides eliminate insects. A herbicide will have no real effect on an insect simply because the chemicals used in herbicides aren't poisonous to bugs.

People, plants and pets may have particular sensitivities to any number of products, including pesticides. Being aware of these sensitivities when using turfgrass chemicals is being a good neighbor. This would include letting your ultra-sensitive neighbor know you'll be spraying a particular product on your property, avoid using herbicides around sensitive plants that could be stunted or killed by accident, or suggesting that your neighbor keep their pets off of your yard to avoid any potential problems.

In answer to those who criticize or question the use of pesticides on lawns, it should be noted that the environmental and aesthetic benefits of lawn are dramatically increased when the grasses are healthy and growing vigorously. While pseudo-scientists and scare mongers are able to sensationalize an issue through the manipulation of information, practicing scientists have shown that the benefits of turfgrasses can be substantially increased through the proper use of pesticides and fertilizers, without a significant risk to man or his environment.

Know what the real problem is before you treat an area, use only the proper chemical and only treat when the occurrence warrants its use (utilizing IPM practices). Also consider alternative pest control methods.

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FORGOT & FOUND

A White Tractor Chair
was left at the
Annual Conference.

It may be claimed by
calling the MGCSA
Office at (612) 473-0557

NST Announces Staff Changes

In an effort to serve its customers more efficiently, North Star Turf has announced some personnel changes within its sales staff.

Effective January 1, Joe Churchill assumes the position of sales manager and will direct the selling efforts of the company's sales staff. Before assuming his new position, Churchill worked a sales territory including part of the Twin Cities metro area and south-western and western Minnesota. Churchill came to North Star Turf in 1990 after 12 years of service with Northrup King's Medalist Turf Division.

Filling Churchill's vacated sales territory is Greg Brodd. Brodd joins the NST sales staff after working two years as the company's service coordinator. His background and recent experience coordinating service work at NST helps qualify him as the company's newest technical sales representative.

These changes come at the same time that NST announces the retirement of Allen Gerdin after 30 years with the company. He will continue to work on a part-time basis during peak season, providing sales support within the company's St. Paul office.