

With Winter On Hand, Store Pesticides Properly

With winter on hand, we need to remind ourselves of a few basic principles about proper pesticide storage.

Regardless of the size of your operation or the volume of materials you use, pesticides should be stored in a separate building, room or enclosure. The storage area should be kept dry, reasonably cool, and out of direct sunlight. An exhaust fan should be used for proper ventilation to help reduce the temperature and build up of toxic fumes.

Be sure to locate the exhaust fan where it will not damage plants or harm humans. Some pesticides have special storage requirements and require protection against freezing or extreme heat.

As a general rule, most pesticides will begin to deteriorate at temperatures below 40°F. and above 90°F. Be sure to read the label for proper storage requirements. Pesticide bags, cartons and boxes should be stored off the floor on shelves or on pallets to avoid moisture and deterioration of the packaging.

The storage area should be securely locked when not in use and warning signs with "**Danger—Pesticides, Keep Out**" should be posted on the door and other appropriate areas. Be sure not to store glass and metal pesticide containers near a heat source such as steam pipes or in direct sunlight. Heating of the container may result in expansion of the liquid contents and lead to an explosion.

If you are using several different types of pesticides (i.e., insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides), be sure to keep each pesticide type in separate areas to avoid confusion and inadvertent misuse. Keep a current inventory of your materials as to purchase date, quantity, and condition of the container, and use up pesticides that may be reaching the limits of their shelf life storage.

By doing this, you will reduce the volume of unused chemicals preventing a large disposal problem and avoid the mistake of spraying with a pesticide that has lost its pest controlling ability. **Under no circumstances should a pesticide be stored in a food or drink container!**

When examining chemicals for evidence of deterioration, look for these warning signs:

Emulsifiable Concentrates: Milky coloration does not occur with the addition of water, sludge is present or any separation of components is evident in the container.

Oil Sprays: Milky coloration does not occur with the addition of water.

Dusts: Granules and Wettable Powders: Excessive lumping.

—The Bull Sheet

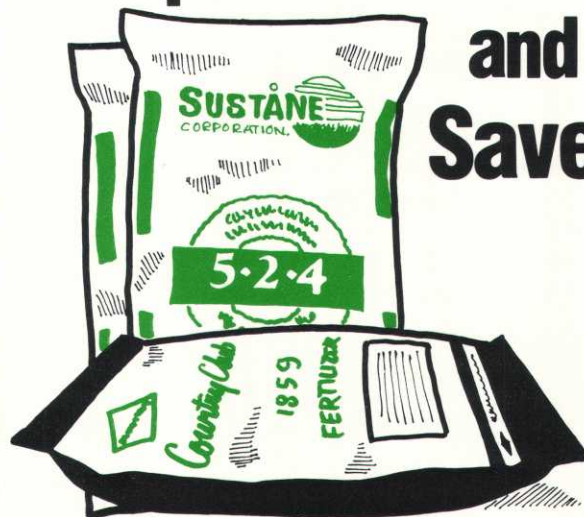
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In Brief...

■ **Innovations in pesticide packaging will continue**, according to Ciba packaging czar Larry Dull. Dull told attendees at a recent industry meeting to look for more closed handles to facilitate easier rinsing, more "pre-packs" (two products packaged together, but not formulated together), more refillables, more biodegradable containers, more water solubles, gels and water-soluble bagged liquids. The manufacturers are listening to what users are saying, and the options seem to be growing constantly...

■ **The "moon suit" syndrome continues.** At the same industry meeting, Kevin Downing, CGCS, of Florida's Willoughby, GC, noted how hard it can be to answer golfers who ask, "If this guy's all bundled up, how dangerous is this stuff to me?" Some superintendents find it effective to answer this question with a comparison to x-rays: The x-ray is harmless to the patient but the technician is required by law to protect herself because of the increased potential risks of frequent exposure...

■ **Tentative "Delaney" settlement doesn't impact turf.** You may have read that EPA and the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) settled a long-standing court battle over enforcement of the Delaney Clause, a decades-old amendment that seems to mandate that no detectable levels of pesticide residues be allowed in food. The settlement could lead to a ban on the use of approximately three dozen pesticides on more than 140 different raw and processed foods. The key word here is "food," so the measure doesn't directly impact T&O uses...

■ **What's sauce for the goose?** It may be Kool-Aid. According to an item in the Met GCSA's *Tee to Green*, a New York homeowner heard about research suggesting that odor and flavor of grapes can repel geese—and decided to conduct her own front-yard experiment using grape Kool-Aid powder. Reportedly, the nuisance geese that were fouling (fowling?) her

yard beat a hasty retreat the next day. We wonder if the sticky purple web-prints in her driveway are now a bigger problem.

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If you have questions about regulatory, legal, environmental or legislative issues affecting golf courses, feel free to contact the GCSAA Government Relations Office at 913/841-2240. If you need specific advice, contact Pat Jones, Director of Communications. For information about media relations, contact Scott Smith, Manager of Public Relations. For general information, copies of articles, studies, etc., contact David Bishop, Manager of Technical Information Services.

Readers should note that GCSAA has reorganized its Communications Department to better serve members and others who need assistance with public affairs issues. The association is also planning to name a new Manager of Government Relations very soon. Look for more information in upcoming issues of Briefing.



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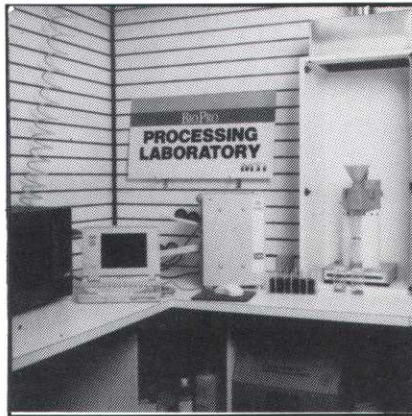
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