



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Moisture Conditions Present Perfect Opportunity to Kill Undesirables*

*By Paul Diegnau, CGCS*

Is anyone else having difficulty keeping up with the incredible growth in your roughs? Wow! It is amazing what a significant rain event every three or four days can do for the often neglected rough areas on our golf courses. I don't know about you, but it is the end of July and I began spraying broadleaves a week ago. Clover made significant inroads this summer and these unusual moisture conditions have presented the perfect opportunity to kill some undesirables.

By now, you should have received a three-question survey via email regarding the treatment of water features on your property. Please answer these questions at your earliest convenience and send to the MGCSA office. Why is this important? As I had mentioned in my previous column, there are new regulations on the horizon regarding all chemical treatments for surface waters. This will include BIOLOGICAL products as well as DYES and COPPER SULFATE.

"As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches."

**In a nutshell, these new regulations deem a spray nozzle as point source pollution.** Under this designation, pesticide applications made to, over, or near U.S. waters will require a Pesticides General Permit (PGP). The Minnesota PGP program will be administered by the MN Pollution Control Agency. The PGP was developed in response to a decision by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (National Cotton Council, et al. v. EPA). The court voided EPA's 2006 rule that said NPDES permits were not required for applications of pesticides to U.S. waters. As a result of the Court's decision, discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of pesticides will require NPDES permits when the court's mandate takes effect, on April 9, 2011. EPA estimates that the Sixth Circuit's ruling will affect approximately 365,000 pesticide applicators nationwide that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually using 500 different active ingredients.

**EPA's PGP regulates discharges to waters of the U.S.** from the application of (1) biological pesticides, and (2) chemical pesticides that leave a residue. The following pesticide use patterns are covered under the PGP: mosquito and other flying insect pest control, aquatic weed and algae control, aquatic nuisance animal control and forest canopy pest control.

The current proposed regulations contain thresholds that relate to pesticide use under the PGP. The annual treatment area threshold for controlling mosquitoes and other flying insect pests and for forest canopy pest control activities is 640 acres of treatment area. The annual treatment area threshold for aquatic weed and algae control and aquatic nuisance animal control is 20 acres of treatment area in water or 20 linear miles of treatment area at water's edge. For calculating annual treatment area totals, each pesticide application activity is counted as a separate activity. For example, applying pesticides twice a year to a 10-acre site should be counted as 20 acres of treatment area. Treating both sides of a 10-mile ditch is equal to 20 miles of water treatment area. Exceeding these proposed annual thresholds requires the operator to submit a document to the regulating authority known as a Notice of Intent (NOI). Along with the submission of an NOI come additional responsibilities. These include implementation of IPM practices, development of a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan, submittal of annual reports and maintaining records of pest control practices.

**The MN Turfgrass Government Affairs Committee of the MGCSA** is considering engaging the MPCA in an attempt to increase the annual threshold levels to minimize the impact on our industry. Please take several minutes and answer the questions in the survey. We need this information to make a case to request this change. Stay tuned and informed.

**MGCSA has created a blog site for members** to use to disseminate information and assist each other. It will only be successful if members participate. There is a link to the blog on the front page of the MGCSA website. Let's use it!

MGCSA members interested in running for the Board should contact Rick Traver, CGCS.

Nominations for the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award should be forwarded to Scottie Hines, CGCS.

**Roger Stewart, CGCS of the TPC Twin Cities is doing fine** and recovering at home after recently undergoing heart surgery. He says he will be back to work in no time and will probably be running at 110% by the time you read this.

*Until next time,  
Paul Diegnau, CGCS*

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# HOLE NOTES

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