



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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WHAT'S TO BECOME OF GOLF COURSE CHEMICALS?

The upcoming labeling of toxic chemicals for "restricted use" only and the nationwide certification (qualification) of pesticide applicators are new EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) rulings which are soon destined to become state adopted laws. How will they effect the golf course superintendent?

The EPA has once again eluded the golf course superintendent and his need of chemicals for the 1,150,152 acres of golf course turf in the United States. Evidently 10,000,000 golf courses do not represent a large enough concern to warrant a classification within EPA's 10 categories of professional pesticide applicators, and conse-

quently will not be permitted to use "restricted use" chemicals after October 12, 1976. "Neither commercial nor private applicators may use those pesticides which are restricted for us only by certified applicators unless they are certified for this purpose under a state program approved by the EPA" (Federal Registrar, February 22, 1974). The individual state programs will be based upon EPA guidelines and furthermore, must be approved by the EPA. In other words the individual states can add amendments to the proposed guidelines but not detract from the Federal requirements of "restricted use" chemicals or certification of pesticide applicators. If the federal guidelines do not include our needs for chemicals neither will the individual states, at least not right away. If the law would permit each state to add golf course guidelines, every state would have its own battle and no two states would have the same regulations.

To add to this dilemma future chemical labeling will state what a given chemical can be legally used for; the application of that chemical will be limited to only what is on the label. Needless to say not many chemicals will receive turf labels if, in EPA's eyes, golf courses do not exist. Think back to all the chemicals you have used in years past that have only provided crop information on the label, yet are commonly and universally in use on golf courses. These restricted chemicals will be out of our reach if we are not certified, and again out of our reach if the chemicals are not specifically labeled for use on turfgrass.

By October 21, 1976 only certified pesticide applicators can use or supervise the use of "restricted use" chemicals. As of this date 10 professional classes of pesticide applicators have been designated adequate to cover all major forms of chemical usage in the U. S. Golf Courses are not mentioned, not even as a sub-classification, anywhere within the proposed EPA guidelines.

Categories presently listed are:

1. Demonstration pest control
2. Public health pest control
3. Forest pest control
4. Aquatic pest control
5. Regulatory pest control
6. Agricultural pest control
7. Seed treatment
8. Right of way pest control
9. Industrial, institutional and structural pest control

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thirty or more of our members journeyed to Williamsburg to meet with the Old Dominion Association of GCS in April. Considering the distance I think this was a great turnout, and again proves the professionalism of our membership.

Some played the Golden Horseshoe Course, and those who saw it raved about fineness of maintenance and interest built into the course. The highlight of the day was the tour of the new Kingsmill course under construction, led by the newly appointed superintendent and past national president, Ted Roberts. The course has been designed to be a "monster", and from a maintenance standpoint I think every one got the idea that the architect really hates superintendents. I'm sure since Ted is now on the scene that some of those terrific problem areas can be modified.

If you have not yet received your membership certificate, please come to the next meeting to pick it up. They will be at all meetings until all are delivered.

The Mid-Atlantic congratulates members Richard Watson and Charlie Schalestock who have recently become quarter century members of the national. They will receive their pins at one of our meetings in the near future.

Several of our members sent reservation cards for the April meeting but did not attend. This was an embarrassment to the Mid-Atlantic. Please — if reservations have been sent in your name for any future meeting and you find you cannot attend, telephone your host so he may make necessary cancellations.

J. Paul Barefoot