

Diazinon Appeal

Ciba-Geigy Corporation, the original developer, and the country's largest manufacturer of diazinon-based products, has appealed the EPA's recent decision upholding its ban of the pesticide on golf courses and sod farms because of its risk to birds. The Environmental Protection Agency ruled in July that "the only way to preclude diazinon from generally posing an unreasonable avian risk is to prohibit its use on golf courses and sod farms altogether."

Statistically, golf courses represented less than two percent of Ciba-Geigy's diazinon sales in the pre-ban days of early 1988. Homeowners were the major customers, buying 65 percent. Farmers and indoor pest controllers purchased 15 percent each. Professional turf care companies and golf courses purchased five percent total. Homeowners, farmers, institutions, and indoor pest controllers can still use diazinon.

A Ciba-Geigy spokesman said his company's latest legal effort could be successful because of rulings by both an administrative law judge and the appeals court that the EPA review its initial ban.

Certification Exam Updated

Effective December 1, the pesticide management section of the certification examination will include new questions pertaining to water quality, underground storage tanks, integrated pest management and worker right-to-know. This section will be revised and retitled "Pest Control, Safety, and Compliance" in order to test superintendents on a broader area of environmental concerns.

Any applicant to GCSAAs certification program who wishes to take the certification exam during the 1991 GCSAA Conference and Show must submit a written request to association headquarters by January 1, 1991. Only those who are approved applicants in the certification process and who have submitted a written statement of intent to test before the deadline will be allowed to take the test in Las Vegas. The certification exam will be given at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10.

FIFRA vs Locals

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has stopped the city of Milford, Mich. from enforcing a

local rule that required notice prior to spraying, and the registration of persons applying pesticides for hire. The court concluded that the ordinance was an attempt by local government to regulate pesticides and their use. This case is one of several that have pitted local authorities against the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

No Smoking!

A new golf course in Tokyo, Japan, built on an island of trash, will strictly enforce a no smoking policy. The 18 million tons of raw garbage under the golf course will create an estimated 30,000 cubic meters of combustible gas a day. Officials fear that a misplaced cigarette could cause a totally new kind of golf "boom."

President, from page 2

Now it is time for a change and change is good. New faces, new ideas, and new directions. I hope that all of you get to experience the exhilaration of being an integral part of this Association. Thanks for a great ride. Hi Ho, Silver, Away!

Bill Neus, C.G.C.S., President

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Mitchell Williams, Editor
Manor Country Club
14901 Carrolton Road
Rockville, MD 20853
(301) 929-1707

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P.B. 965641

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