

SPORTS TURF SEMINAR

Dol Brothers Limited hosted a Sports Turf Seminar at the Notawasaga Inn, Alliston, on December 7th, 1988.

The invited audience were mostly chosen from school boards and parks & recreation departments responsible for school board turf maintenance.

Guest speakers were Mr. Norm McCollum, superintendent of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, and Mr. Pat Tucker, formerly of the University of Guelph and now a private consultant in the field of horticulture.

Norm spoke on the most recent test results of his work at the Cambridge Research Station as well as the results of experiments being conducted on highway ditches in the Guelph area.

Pat addressed the area of soils, including: fertilization, aeration, soil profiles, irrigation, etc.

Both presentations were top-notch and well received by an enthusiastic audience.

The second half of the program was given over to Ernie Pecore, manager of Dol Brothers Sports Turf Division. Ernie reviewed the problems faced by sports turf maintenance personnel — past approaches to these problems, and new alternatives available to sports turf managers. One of these new alternatives was an ongoing turf maintenance program offered by Dol Brothers which included top dressing, aerating, fertilizing, and overseeding. This was followed by an explanation of how the program worked and how, through mutual co-operation, the program would be a complete success.

Participants in the panel discussion which followed were more active than usual and this reflected the

interested created by the seminar content.

The social hour was followed by a delicious dinner consisting of filet of lamb prepared in the style of beef wellington. There were no table scraps for Fido that night.

The results of a seminar evaluation questionnaire completed by the guests revealed there is a new wave of growing interest emerging in the area of sports maintenance. Perhaps we, as members of the Sports Turf Association, should make a concentrated effort to expand into those fields which may not be aware of our existence and therefore our aims and objectives.

Norm McCollum threw this timely question out a few weeks ago: "What comprises the second largest acreage in the province of Ontario?"

Practical Pesticide Safety Pointers

by Dr. Austin M. Frishman,
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There are a host of small steps which can be taken to reduce exposure to pesticides. When all these practical steps are combined, the result is a safer environment to work in. Use this article as a checklist.

- ☑ Keep fingernails short so dirt and pesticide do not absorb under the nails.
- ☑ Avoid beards or wash beard daily. There are two major reasons beards are not advisable when applying pesticides: the beard readily absorbs and holds pesticides and it is very difficult to get a tight fit when using a respirator or gas mask.
- ☑ Avoid the use of cuffs on pants. Cuffs hold excessive pesticide.
- ☑ Do not carry lunches in the vehicle or carrying case which contains the pesticide. If it must be done (in rare cases), keep the lunch in a tightly sealed metal lunch pail. Do not use a paper bag.
- ☑ Wash hands before eating. The back of the hand absorbs almost twice as much pesticide as the front, therefore, wash thoroughly before eating, after using concentrates and at the end of the day.
- ☑ Within the vehicle, store pesticides in areas outside of where the driver sits.
- ☑ Keep pesticides in containers with tight lids. All items should fit tightly so they do not move, tilt, or spill when stopping. Avoid the use of wooden boxes for liquid pesticides as they readily absorb

pesticide and thereafter emit vapors.

- ☑ Do not wait for a pesticide spill to occur to try to figure out how to remove it from the trunk of a vehicle. Anticipate the worst. Line the bottom of the trunk with a plastic liner, cover the liner with a pre-cut piece of cardboard. If large spills occur, the plastic will keep the pesticide from saturating the trunk. This not only results in a safer environment, but allows the selling of the vehicle at a higher price.
- ☑ Keep windows in the vehicle open. In the winter, even a small crack will help.
- ☑ Carry pesticide absorbent-material for small spills. Commercial absorbent used in garages will do.
- ☑ Do not smoke while using pesticides.
- ☑ Change clothes daily and wash clothes separately.
- ☑ When handling pesticide concentrate, use gloves which are not cloth lined.
- ☑ Carry and use a funnel when pouring pesticides. This will reduce spillage.
- ☑ Place the funnel in a tightly sealed container when not in use.
- ☑ Use paper towels, not rags for wiping hands.
- ☑ When mixing concentration, do not put head close to the tank.
- ☑ Carry small amounts of concentrate in the vehicle.

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