TURFGRASS TRENDS

PESTICIDES

Pesticide Runoff: How Does Turf Contribute?

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As urban areas expand, so do our urban landscapes, with turf areas being a major component. As golf continues to increase in visibility and higher values and expectations are placed on lawns and landscapes, response to these demands include increasing maintenance inputs in turf. Increased public expectations for high quality turf have raised concerns about environmental safety especially in reference to our drinking water.

Public advocacy groups as well as government agencies have initiated local and national reforms to protect ground and surface water from chemical contamination. Today's turf managers face the challenge of maintaining well-manicured turf with increasingly restricted inputs.

Turf industry challenges

The turf industry has increased rapidly since the 1960s, and turf areas cover more than 30 million acres, including 50 million home lawns, golf courses, parks, athletic fields, cemeter-

TABLE 1. RUNOFF STUDY APPLICATION DATES

DATE	PESTICIDE	APPLICATOR	ACTIVE INGREDIENT
8/17/99	GrubEX	Homeowner	Imidacloprid
	Merit	Professional	Imidacloprid
10/15/99	Weed-B-Gon	Homeowner	2,4-D, MCPP, Dicamba
	Horse Power	Professional	MCPA, Dicamba, Triclopyr
4/5/00	Scott's Turf Builder	Homeowner	Pendimethalin
	Barricade	Professional	Prodiamine
6/9/00	Diazinon	Homeowner	Diazinon
	Dursban	Professional	Chlorpyrifos
7/19/00	GrubEX	Homeowner	Imidacloprid
	Merit	Professional	Imidacloprid
10/23/00	Weed-B-Gon	Homeowner	2,4-D, MCPP, Dicamba
	Horse Power	Professional	MCPA, Dicamba, Triclopyr