

Can We Take Pesticides For Granted

by Jim Gilligan

As golf course superintendents we know that the success of our work rests upon equal parts of luck and skill. In the "luck" category we have a major component - weather - strictly out of our control. In the skill area we can depend on our education, experience and an adequate supply of resources - equipment, agrichemicals and manpower.

The proper selection of equipment requires sound judgement and instinct. Manpower is a long term program of selection, nurturing and maturing of the work force - a thesis in itself.

The turf manager needs pesticides. He is dependent upon them to protect the grass from fungi, nematodes, insects, and weeds. To use them effectively they must be understood and used with discretion. Environmental abuses with pesticides can be attributed to properly registered and labeled pesticides which were improperly applied.

Where do we begin to understand the nature of pesticides? Can we learn their chemical structures? Their mode of action? Their effect on the target pest? The residual effects of our applications? Their safety to ourselves, our staff, the golfers and our neighbors?

Pesticides demand respect. Without it, it leads to abuse and negligence. These chemicals are too valuable to our industry. We cannot take them for granted or we will lose them.

The serious concern about prenotification has been spurred by pesticide drift into non-target areas. We must be cognizant of our liability and the safety concerns of everyone involved in the application.

We find these new regulations bothersome and even unnecessary; however, we are in the minority. These regulations are written to satisfy the majority. Since we are the elite in the turf industry, we have a responsibility to utilize these chemicals in a safe and frugal manner.

—Credit *The Greenside Magazine*

"THE LOWEST BIDDER"

It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money—that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the job it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot—it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and, if you do that, you will have enough to pay for something better.

JOHN RUSKIN, Author Economist
February 8, 1819 - January 20, 1900

MEETING INFORMATION

WHEN:	JAN 13, 1988)
WHERE:	DIABLO CREEK GC
BOARD	6:30 A.M.
BREAKFAST:	8:30 A.M. .
MEETING:	9:00 A.M.
GOLF:	11:00 A.M.
HOST:	ROD KILCOYNE