

PESTICIDES

ChemLawn employees will be scrutinized

Health records of ChemLawn employees who handled pesticides from 1969 to 1980 are being studied to identify possible risks from 2,4-D exposure. ChemLawn sanctioned the study after the National Cancer Institute released a report last year suggesting a link between the herbicide and lymphatic cancer in farmers.

The NCI is conducting the study, which will include an estimated 5,000 ChemLawn employees and former employees who handled pesticides. It is the first such examination of lawn care employees' health records.

"We fully expect to find there is no problem with 2,4-D," says Chem-

Lawn's Steve Hardymon. "This was at our request after their (NCI's) original study came out. We've got much better information than they've got on the Kansas farmers."

The NCI study on Kansas farmers concluded that long-term exposure to herbicides, particularly 2,4-D, increased the risk of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. ChemLawn immediately suspended its use of 2,4-D.

(The NCI's conclusions were disputed by three of four epidemiologists hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

NCI researchers hope to find out if mortality rates of ChemLawn employ-

ees are higher than for people who do not handle pesticides. If they are, researchers will examine what products the employees worked with and what other activities they were involved in.

Sheila Hoar Zahm, Ph.D., of the NCI's occupational studies section, is in charge of the study. She says it will take about a year to examine the histories of present employees who were with ChemLawn from 1969 to 1980 and another year to examine the histories of those who have left the company.

A full report will probably be released in two years, Zahm said.

PRODUCTS

Fungicide label OK'd

The Environmental Protection Agency has given label approval to Banner fungicide, manufactured by Ciba-Geigy. The product is registered to control a number of diseases on cool-season grasses only. The two main diseases it controls are dollar spot and brown patch.

"We've been expecting EPA approval on Banner for a couple of years," notes Houston Couch, Ph.D., a plant pathologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Banner is a broad spectrum, systemic fungicide which is concentrated enough to have recommended application rates of 1-2 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft.

According to the company, 1 oz. per 1,000 sq. ft. will control dollar spot for two to four weeks; 2 oz. controls brown patch for two to three weeks.

Banner has entered market distribution and is available from Ciba-Geigy. "We're confident that the product will perform well," says Mike Joyce of Ciba-Geigy.



15th anniversary

Bob Russell, left, accepts a plaque honoring his 15 years as secretary-treasurer of the American Seed Trade Association's Lawn Seed Division from Lawn Institute executive director Eliot Roberts, Ph.D.

TURFGRASS

Midnight, Blacksburg tie in national bluegrass test

Midnight and Blacksburg tied for first with mean quality ratings of 6.1 on results just published from the National Kentucky Bluegrass Test. These ratings are the first obtained on the test, which was established in 1985.

In the USDA's rating system, 9.0 is ideal turf, 1.0 the worst.

Midnight scored best in Maryland and Ohio while Blacksburg's top scores were reported from Maryland, Oregon and Rhode Island. Midnight scored best (6.5) in September, Blacksburg in January (6.8). The two also tied for first in percent of living ground cover left in the fall with scores of 72.5. Midnight was rated sec-

ond in spring green-up and first in genetic color.

Next highest scorers were Rugby, Asset and BA 72-500, each with 6.0s.

According to the USDA report, "interpretation should be done with caution because results may be modified with additional experimentation."

Ratings were taken at 27 locations on 72 cultivars, some experimental. Here are mean ratings for the top cultivars:

Midnight	6.1
Blacksburg	6.1
BA 72-500	6.0
Rugby	6.0
Asset	6.0
BA 72-492	5.9

F-1872	5.9
Tendos	5.9
Classic	5.9
Trenton	5.9
K3-178	5.9
BA 70-139	5.8
America	5.8
Challenger	5.8
Georgetown	5.8
K1-152	5.8
BA 73-540	5.8
Sydsport	5.8
Victoria	5.8
Lofts 1757	5.8
Cheri	5.8
Haga	5.8
Baron	5.8
239	5.8

GOLF

New real estate booms with building of new golf courses

Approximately one out of two real estate projects under construction for year-round or resort living includes golf site lots for potential buyers, according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

One reason for the golf boom is the aesthetic appeal to both golfers and non-golfers. Also, demographics show that, though the number of golf courses has doubled since 1960, the number of golfers has increased four-fold since then.

Further—and perhaps most important—is the excellent return of profits for developers and soaring property values for homeowners.

Buyers at a New England resort and conference center who paid \$90,000 for units were able to turn around and sell them for \$150,000 just two years later.

Industry experts believe this trend will continue as more and more people take up the sport of golf.

ATHLETIC TURF

Reprints available on safe fields

Athletic turf managers now have easy access to information on maintaining safe fields. *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine is selling reprints of two athletic turf issues. The reprints can be given to parent-teacher organizations or school boards to illustrate the importance of quality fields.

The two issues were originally published in September 1986 and June 1987. "Sidelined" deals with how to construct and maintain safe fields, and "Hard Knocks" explains in detail a test which may become a necessity for natural turf field managers.

Reprints sell for \$5.50 each (\$2.50 plus \$3 handling) or field managers can order both "Sidelined" and "Hard Knocks" for \$8. The price is tax-deductible since profits will go to the National Sports Turf Council.

To place an order, call HBJ's Business Information Services at (216) 826-2839 or send a check payable to HBJ to: Business Information Services, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Be sure to specify which reprint you want.

BENT GOING NATIONAL?...Jack Murray, Ph.D., says the USDA Beltsville (Md.) facility may establish a National Bentgrass Test, comparable to other national tests for bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fescues. "There is some interest," Murray notes. "We discussed it during the Southern Turfgrass workshop." Murray says 1988 is too early to expect the tests to be implemented, but that they could be in operation by 1989 or 1990.

DESERT—REAL DESERT—GOLF...Using the resources of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the first all-grass golf course in the Arabian Gulf will open just outside Dubai, Arabia, by the end of the year. According to "Parks, Golf Courses & Sports Grounds" magazine (Middlesex, England), constant watering is done through 740 Toro pop-up heads fed by two lakes containing 10 million gallons of desalinated sea water. Greens at Emirates Golf Club (and you should see the clubhouse!) have been seeded with Tifton 328 bermudagrass and fairways with Tifton 419 to cope with daily temperatures of 104 degrees and more.

A LIVING MEMORIAL...Workers broke ground June 15 on the Henry C. Soto Water Conservation Garden at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. The memorial is a tribute to Soto, a pioneer landscaper in Southern California who died a year ago. The garden was designed by Soto's friend Robert Cornell to exemplify Soto's determination to "never throw anything away." The garden emphasizes water conservative plants and the usefulness of recycled materials such as broken concrete, railroad ties and large trees rescued from the paths of bulldozers.

STAMP OF APPROVAL...A national campaign has begun to increase public awareness of arboriculture through a postage stamp honoring the industry. The Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee has received a proposal for such a stamp. Should the committee approve the proposal, about 100 million stamps would be printed. Those in favor of such a stamp should write: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-9998.

SEEDSMEN MEET...The 35th annual convention of the Atlantic Seedsmen's Association will be held at the Summit Hotel, Hartford, Conn., on Oct. 28-30. The seedsmen will begin their program on Wednesday with their annual member roundtable, according to president Jim Harris. The annual banquet will be held Thursday evening.

Additional program and registration information is available from John Baylor, Ph.D., executive director, Atlantic Seedsmen's Association, 298 E. McCormick Ave., State College, PA 16801. Baylor's phone number is (814) 237-0330.

NEW ADDITIONS...Arid turf-type tall fescue and Foltz alkali grass have been added to the American Seed Trade Association/Lawn Seed Division Variety Review Board's list of recommended turf cultivars. Dropped from the list were Clemfine tall fescue and Citation and Omega ryegrasses.