

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

is a proud member of these
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Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA; (703) 620-6363.

American Sod Producers Association, 1855-A Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; (708) 705-9898.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; (913) 841-2240.

International Society of Arboriculture, P.O. Box 908, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 328-2032.

International Turfgrass Society, Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403; (703) 231-9796.



National Arborist Association, The Meeting Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH 03031-1094; (603) 673-3311.

National Golf Foundation, 1150 South U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, FL 33477; (407) 744-6006.

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210; (614) 292-2601.



Professional Grounds Management Society, 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21031; (410) 584-9754.



Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (404) 977-5222.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, 1155 15th St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 872-3860.



Sports Turf Managers Association, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-4267; (312) 644-6610.

Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association, 8400 Normandale Lake Blvd., Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55437; (612) 832-5000.

AS WE SEE IT

RON HALL, SENIOR EDITOR



Green industry workers on collision course with cancer

Many of us are at great risk and don't even know it.

The hazard: cancer.

No, it's unlikely the danger is caused by exposure to any of the chemicals we work with. Much, much more likely, what will cause our cancer is something we consider to be the best part of the turf/landscape business—working outdoors.

Skin cancer (there are several different kinds) is one of the biggest health risks we face. Why? Because most of us are exposed to skin-damaging ultraviolet radiation day after day, and we take no precautions.

More than 600,000 new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer are reported each year in the United States. The National Cancer Institute says that as many as 30 percent of people in the South will develop non-melanoma skin cancer at some point in their life, about 15 percent in the North.

These numbers astonish me.

Even now they astonish me—even after a skin specialist removed a solar keratosis from my right temple which, as far as can be determined, was pre-cancerous.

"What would happen if I didn't get this taken care of?" I ask the doctor.

"It would just get worse."

"How'd I get it?"

"Too much sun. It's not all that uncommon. Actually, it's in a good place. It could have been on your nose."

The keratosis started as a tiny bump, maybe four years ago, then gradually progressed into an on-again, off-again sore that eventually grew to half the size of a pencil eraser.

Within minutes of examining the blemish, the doctor went to work. He injected an anesthetic into the area between my right eye and hairline, then cut and scraped away the offending blemish. He used what, from the corner of my eye, appeared to be a soldering iron to cauterize the wound. He sent a sample of the tissue to a nearby hospital for further tests.

I've since learned that several friends have had similar experiences; some, in

fact, more serious than mine.

I've also learned that solar keratoses are probably the least threatening manifestations of cancer. There are other forms, and some can become life threatening if not detected and treated soon enough.

Basal cell carcinoma, for instance, is a slow-growing cancer that rarely spreads to other parts of the body. It's the most common type of skin cancer. Squamous cell carcinomas are faster growing tumors and sometimes spread to other organs. Together, these two types of cancers are known as "non-melanoma skin cancers" to distinguish them from melanoma of the skin, a more serious form of cancer yet.

There isn't enough room in this column to give you more detailed information. Contact your local chapter of the American Cancer Society. They'll be glad to supply you with literature, photographs, and other material.

Until then, share this information about the risks of skin cancer with co-workers and employees.

It should be a part of the safety training of all lawn/landscape professionals, considering the number of shirtless, hatless workers I see mowing or working on clients' landscapes.

Usually these workers are white males. Although no race is immune to a skin cancer, this segment of the population is most likely to develop a skin cancer, says the American Cancer Society.

To reduce the risk of becoming one of the 2,500 Americans who die each year of non-melanoma skin cancers: wear hats and appropriate clothing, and use sunscreen (SPF 15 or more) when working outdoors.