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Associated Landscape Contractors of America,
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500, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 789-2900.

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,
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20005; (202) 872-3860.



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

Turf and Ornamental Communicators Associa-
tion, 421 West Travelers Trail, Burnsville, MN
55337; (612) 894-2414.

AS WE SEE IT

RON HALL, SENIOR EDITOR



Some people out there say we're making them 'sick'

Multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is something we all must continue to monitor.

People who claim to suffer from MCS say that exposure to chemicals causes them terrible health problems. Just about any man-made chemical can do it, they say—newspaper ink, solvents, deodorizers, hair spray, aftershave included.

Whenever the topic of MCS arises, a discussion of pesticides always follows.

The two are linked. In this context, the words "pesticides" and "poisons" are often used interchangeably. To MCS sufferers, careless and/or uncaring applicators can rightly be described as poisoners. That's how we fit into this equation, even if unwillingly.

Their message to all pesticide-using professionals is clear: stay away. Far away.

These sufferers believe that MCS is initially triggered by one overwhelming exposure to a particular chemical. Or, in some individuals, to a long term and persistent exposure to a particular chemical.

Whatever the cause, MCS victims (that's how they describe themselves) are absolutely convinced that the exposure has so traumatized their bodies that even the most minute presence of chemicals in their environment causes them extreme discomfort.

They often go to incredible lengths to avoid exposure to chemicals. They may remove all chemical products from their homes. They may wear gas masks when they leave their homes. Sometimes they even relocate themselves and their families to the country to escape whatever chemicals their neighbors use.

These victims say MCS robs them of their health; it destroys their careers; it sometimes even denies them the association of friends.

Their lives seem to be consumed with the fear of chemicals, and any illnesses that result from contact with chemicals.

How many people suffer—or claim to suffer—from MCS?

Depending on who's talking, the number can vary from thousands to as many as 10 million people nationwide.

Some belong to community support groups. There may be as many as 20 people in such groups.

It's unlikely that any city of any size in the nation doesn't have, at least, a few people who believe that at least some of their health problems are caused or worsened by exposure to chemicals. But the term "multiple chemical sensitivity" is just now gaining more usage.

The mainstream medical community doesn't seem to know what to do about MCS. In fact, the number of physicians recognizing it as a problem is still small. But, like MCS sufferers themselves, this number will probably grow.

We, as professional chemical users, don't know what to do about MCS either.

Certainly, we can't say that it doesn't exist. That it's so much bunk. That the people who claim to suffer from it, really don't.

We're not medical experts. How can we know what they're feeling?

Mostly, it seems, we must do everything we can to keep it from becoming a bigger problem, either for ourselves and our businesses, but particularly for those who say they are its victims.