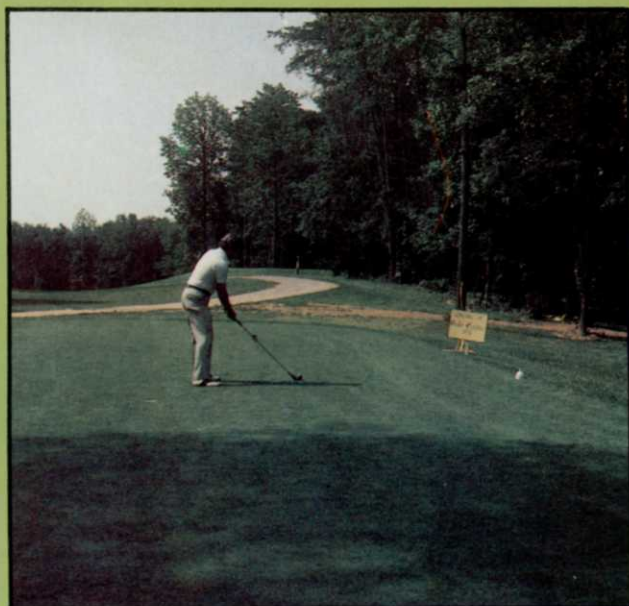


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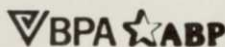
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Single copy price \$1.25 for current and back issues. Foreign \$1.50. Subscription in the U.S. and Canada are \$12.00 per year. \$15.00 in other countries. Foreign air mail optional at an additional \$24 per year. Controlled circulation postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio 44101. Postmaster: send form 3569.



Member: American Business Press, Business Publications Audit, National Golf Foundation, American Sod Producers Association, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, National Landscape Association, Horticultural Research Institute.

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## OUTLOOK

By Bruce F. Shank, Editor

The organizational needs of athletic field managers are growing and existing Green Industry associations should consider whether or not they can be of service.

The influence of an athletic field manager currently depends more on the success of and the support for the teams that play on the fields than on the agronomic needs of the turf. Like other Green Industries, the athletic field manager has to educate his superiors to the needs of natural turf and to the waning popularity of artificial turf.

To think that trustees could be sold on the concept of expensive artificial turf, but hesitate to allocate funds for the proper care of natural turf is ironic. There is a definite need to educate financial managers of athletic fields about the advances in turf management.

There is a choice. We can leave the task of educating the financial officer to the product salesman, or we can assist athletic field managers in

establishing specifications for quality athletic field construction and maintenance. No doubt specifications do exist in the files of some landscape architects, but they come from numerous sources and may have outdated concepts in design. One organization needs to compile such specifications for the various climatic zones of the country, officially approve them, and release them to all landscape architects and stadium managers. Extension turf specialists from across the U.S. should assist in constructing specifications with the input of athletic field managers for practicality. What is best may not be practical, but minimum standards must be clearly defined.

Whether this task requires the creation of another Green Industry association is debatable. It depends upon the willingness of existing associations to help out.

For the most part, the athletic field manager is an employee, not the

owner of a business. His needs are different from business owners. Dues must be reasonable and the organization must be national in scope. Suppliers to athletic field managers usually have booths at the major shows and may resist participating in another show until proof of organizational viability and market support exists.

I am not recommending the formation of a new group nor do I mean to discourage it. The horizontal identity of the Green Industry is most important. Segmentation should only take place when clearly needed.

So, we encourage present associations to evaluate their position regarding athletic managers and write their views to this magazine for publication. We also encourage those involved in athletic field management; whether they be managers, suppliers, or extension personnel; to send their view to Weeds Trees & Turf for publication.

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# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Industry leaders decry proposed spray ban

A national outcry has emerged from Green Industry leaders and representatives over a petition to severely limit spraying of pesticides.

The petition, submitted in May, 1979 by Friends of the Earth (FOE) to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration received some 4,000 responses. It requests that pesticide labels prohibit aerial and ground rig application unless the applicator obtains advance written permission from people who live or own property within a given distance of the spray area boundary.

It has evoked a vehement response to industries involved in spraying. For some, the petition could mean an almost complete shutdown of work. To others, it represents another of a series of environmentalist efforts to halt the use of pesticides.

One reason the industry feels particularly victimized by the joint EPA/FAA petition is that it was published under the Proposed Rules section of the January 17 Federal Register. It should have appeared in the Notices section. EPA has received a number of communications from people who have seen or heard of the Federal Register notice and are concerned the EPA is proposing to comply with it.

Beyond this bumble, though, the petition angers Green Industry members because it suggests a dramatic change in their operation. It would require any applicator to receive permission when spraying within 250 feet of a lot with ground equipment and 1,000 feet when applying with mist blowers or aerial applicators.

According to the American Association of Nurserymen, the proposal would mean garden center or landscape nurseries would have to be in excess of 1.4 acres before there would be one square foot that could be treated without permission. With mist blower sprayers or aerial applicators, it would require at least 22.95 acres in a perfect square before

there would be any land free of adjacent property owners.

In the East and other areas where properties are particularly close, the proposal would indirectly stymie the use of pesticides, the actual goal of the petition, according to a Cornell University researcher. He foresees a full array of new insect, disease, and weed problems on golf courses, parks, forest lands, and most farms.

"The 250-foot range makes it necessary for maybe five approvals on each side," says Maria Cinque, extension agent for Nassau County, NY. "I think many of the urban areas will have this problem. The danger is that if only one person says no, all spraying could be stopped."

An official from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America says that landscapers providing guarantees would be affected and maintenance contracts would be severely impacted. If a contractor can't spray trees or shrubs or has to revert to a cumbersome spraying process, the more labor involved will multiply the costs of treatment.

Arborists are also very concerned about the potential effects of the petition. Earl Sinnamon, chairman of

the NAA's pesticide committee, says there is no way to spray tall trees without some drift. Executive Secretary Bob Felix says that arborists recognize the problem and see alternatives. "We are continuing our aggressive pursuit of Integrated Pest Management strategy," he says. "We should be looking down the road with that eventuality coming upon us."

No decisions will be made on the Friends of the Earth petition for several months. The EPA and particularly the FAA are reviewing the approximate 4,000 comments received with close scrutiny. They realize it is a highly polarized issue with broad implications.

When the federal agencies received the petition, they already had undertaken programs to resolve the whole question of spray drift. And when it comes time to decide on a policy, the agencies may not even mention the Friends of the Earth. Yet the FOE petition, for all its publicity, may serve to unite the Green Industry. It will be time to write again when the federal agencies ask for comments on the general rule it proposes.



**Throwing the switch** to a 60-foot windmill which will generate energy for a solar greenhouse is Cal Poly's president, Dr. Warren J. Baker. Others, from left, are Ronald Regan, head of the Ornamental Horticulture Department; Dr. Howard C. Brown, dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Marshall Ochylski, ornamental horticulture faculty member.