

TURF TWISTERS

HOTLINE

Question: Does the Green Section have a hotline for information regarding a serious chemical spill on the golf course? We had such a spill recently and received conflicting recommendations from a chemical expert and a university. I don't want to do anything to my turf until I speak with a USGA agronomist. (Tennessee)

Answer: Your best hotline is a call to the Green Section Regional Office for your area. Your county agricultural extension service office or the consumer information service of the chemical company that manufactured the spilled chemical should also be helpful sources of information. At this time, the Green Section does not have a central hotline, but consideration is being given to the establishment of this type of emergency information through the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Research Computer Library, at Michigan State University. We will keep you posted.

ALERT!

Question: Has the USGA Green Section made any effort to alert member clubs about their responsibilities regarding runoff from chemicals or from the care and maintenance of machinery? It seems to me this is an area that should be addressed quickly. (New Jersey)

Answer: A number of articles have been published in the GREEN SECTION RECORD on this subject in recent years. "Planning The Golf Course Maintenance Facility," May/June 1987, discussed and illustrated the importance of equipment wash stands and wash facilities. "Pesticides — Changing An Image" appeared in the January/February 1986 issue, with a follow-up in the July/August issue. "Another Pesticide Problem — Local Laws" was published in September/October 1985.

There is increasing interest on the part of the general public in this subject. Golf clubs do have a responsibility, and they must constantly guard against pollution. More articles on this subject will appear in future issues.

FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

Question: We note increased awareness of our pesticide use by our neighbors as well as employees. What minimum records should be kept in case some legal action might be taken in the future? (Nebraska)

Answer: Records are cheap insurance, so don't worry about minimum requirements. Always write down:

1. Target pest.
2. Pesticide formulation, rate, and method of application.
3. Time and date of application.
4. Weather conditions at the time: temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction.
5. Names of employees involved and the protective equipment/clothing they use.