

# TURF TWISTERS

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## CAREFULLY

**Question:** I always see LD-50 numbers listed as the measure of the toxicity of a chemical. I understand well that the lower the number, the more toxic the material. My question is, just how much material does it take to affect a person at various LD-50 levels? (Wisconsin)

**Answer:** In material from the *Clinical Handbook on Economic Poisons* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it lists the probable lethal dosage of a technical material for a human adult in this manner:

Acute Oral LD-50 Range	Amount Needed to Affect Adult Human
5 - 50 mg/kg	a few drops
50 - 500 mg/kg	1 teaspoon to 2 tablespoons
500 - 5,000 mg/kg	1 ounce to 1 pint or 1 pound
5,000 - 15,000 mg/kg	1 pint to 1 quart

Thus, by knowing the LD-50 numbers for the pesticides you are using and referring to this general chart, you will perhaps have a better idea of the amount of technical or active ingredient needed to affect an adult.

No matter what the toxicity level, always handle pesticides according to the label, and use them carefully.

## PLANT CLOSE

**Question:** There are several areas around our course where we would like to plant annual flowers. Some of these areas are located in light to moderate shade. Which annuals will do best in this situation? (New York)

**Answer:** The three most popular annual flowers for use in the shade are impatiens, begonias, and coleus. Other useful shade-tolerant annuals include browallia, lobelia, myosotis, sweet alysum, and torenia. When planting flower beds, be sure to space plants close together (6 to 12 inches). Wide spacing is a frequent cause of disappointing flower beds.

## FOR A GOOD CATCH

**Question:** Each spring muskrats dig unsightly holes around my pond, and golfers don't like them. I've had no luck catching them, either. Do you have any ideas on how to trap muskrats? (Georgia)

**Answer:** Many clubs use this technique to catch muskrats around ponds and lakes. Drive a six-inch-diameter PVC pipe into the ground to a depth of one foot adjacent to the pond. Allow four to six inches of the pipe to stick above the ground. Slide a rock into the bottom and then place an apple into the pipe for bait. The muskrat will usually go into the pipe after the apple, but is unable to escape by digging out (with the rock blocking the bottom escape way) or climbing out (he cannot turn around or climb out of the pipe). Good luck!