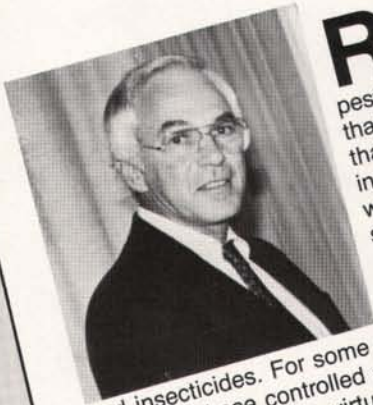


FROM THE PUBLISHER



Recently there have been a number of programs on television about the use of pesticides. One program that I watched told of how a little girl would get sick whenever pesticides were applied in her neighborhood. It also showed that a man died some weeks after he played golf on a course that had been treated with a fungicide just prior to his playing. Although I believe there is more to these stories, the network allowed them to be aired without making a qualifying statement.

For the past number of years the Environmental Protection Agency fueled by environmental groups has attacked segments of our industry with regard to the use of herbicides and insecticides. For some strange reason that I can't explain, we whose livelihood depends on these controlled substances have done very little to counteract these attacks. By remaining silent or virtually invisible, we have given the environmentalist groups more leeway and credibility- and boy are they using it to their advantage. I am concerned about chemical exposure. Surely, we who make the applications would be more apprehensive than the average citizen because if there is a problem it will affect the person making the application.

I am sure there are people who get a reaction when they are exposed to chemical substances, just like I know there are those who are allergic to certain foods and pollens. However, with a population of over 210 million people in the United States, I question what percentage of the population has these chemical reactions? Do we ban the use of chemicals for the entire nation if the percentage is tiny? I think more people are allergic to pollen or certain foods than to chemicals. How do we go about outlawing pollen or food? Sounds ludicrous, doesn't it?

To be sure, there are members of our industry who abuse herbicides and insecticides. Some feel if a little is good, a lot is better. Others, who do not keep their equipment in good condition, transport these materials and cause spillage and leakage. Still others do not take the necessary precautions when making an application. But the bare fact is that under controlled conditions, chemicals play an integral part in the quality of life we live. These same materials that are used to control the weeds and insects on turf and ornamentals are also used in the agricultural markets. Because of insecticides and herbicides, the farmers are able to produce higher yields of foodstuff. Just like wrenches, screwdrivers, lawn mowers, chemical substances help us to a more effective and efficient job. We have a responsibility to ourselves to insure that our health is protected, but we also have a responsibility to protect the health of athletes using our sports turf. Poor turf will injure far more athletes than the chemicals needed to keep turf soft and dense. The solution is not to stop using chemicals, it is to regulate field use after chemical applications if problems with exposure could occur.

Landscaped areas and greenbelts generate oxygen as well as beauty. Sports turf areas provide recreation and fitness. Let's not do away with them as oversimplified solutions to drought and pesticide sensitivity. Surely let's not let them take it away... certainly not without a fight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a background of horizontal lines.