

FROM THE PUBLISHER



A new season is underway and I'm excited. What excites me as I look around is that there is more and more interest in the sports turf market. Even though golf courses have had recognition for some time, even more acknowledgment is coming forward. Suppliers are beginning to realize that there is a definite line between the golf course superintendent, parks and recreation personnel, sports complex managers and the landscape contractor. I have felt from the onset that articles should be written with the superintendent and the sports turf manager in mind. That is the reason for starting *sportsTURF* magazine in the first place. I guess it takes a little while for the nickel to drop. I am delighted to see the whole area of sports turf receiving more and more recognition, and rightfully so.

By the way, if you didn't attend the golf course show in Phoenix, AZ, recently, you missed an opportunity to review all the latest in equipment, irrigation, and even some new chemical applications. It was the largest show ever held by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. More than 12,000 turf managers viewed the more than 300 exhibits at the show.

We are all aware of the impact the Environmental Protection Agency is having upon our industry. With the pesticide sensitivity problem constantly being thrown in our faces, we need to present a unified front with all the forces we can muster. Herbicides, insecticides and fungicides are important tools for the professional manager. We have to triple our efforts to stay informed in the proper and safe use of pesticides. Ask older superintendents how tough it was to control diseases and pests before we had these products at our disposal. They'll describe in detail the hours of labor needed to control insects before chemicals came along. With today's high cost of labor, we can't afford to go back to the old way.

Pesticides are really no different than medicines. After all, there are medicines that can kill you if they are used improperly—and yet those same medicines save millions of live each day. If we were to stop using pesticides on our agricultural crops, we wouldn't be able to feed the world very long.

Another area that is becoming critical and will become more so in the next few years concerns our most precious natural resource . . . water. Even the Pacific Northwest, with seemingly unlimited rainfall, has experienced droughts in the past two years. Schools, parks and playgrounds in the Northwest are adding irrigation systems, at least portable ones, to save their sports fields during droughts. Golf courses and sports fields in virtually every state of the union should have the advantage of irrigation. Irrigation systems actually enable sports turf managers to save water. They are the tool which controls water application, eliminating waste while protecting the most important parts of our landscapes from drought.

If we are to be the masters of our own destinies and not be highly regulated by outside sources, we need to pay more attention to these sensitive areas. More importantly, we must be able to show the bureaucrats and the public at large how we are handling the situation. In other words, we need to become highly visible, maybe not as individuals, but surely through the various associations that serve us.

It is incumbent upon each of us to support these organizations. Through membership in the Sports Turf Managers Association, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and its local chapters, and the Professional Grounds Management Society, we can lend our strength and have these organizations represent us most effectively. Associations were created for more than just social camaraderie. They are tools that we can use effectively in keeping us updated, and by educational seminars, they can spread the word of the part we are playing to control the environment. Associations can be a great podium for better public relations. Let's use them.

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