

GCSAA BREAKS GROUND ON HEADQUARTERS



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) recently broke ground for the construction of its new \$4-million headquarters complex in Lawrence, KS. GCSAA President Dennis D. Lyon said that the groundbreaking

ceremony was an important step for the future of the organization.

"We're excited to see the new building become a reality," said Lyon. "This new facility will allow us to keep meeting the needs of our growing membership for many

years to come."

Lyon was joined at the ceremony by GCSAA Vice President Gerald L. Faubel, Secretary/Treasurer Stephen G. Cadenelli, Executive Director John M. Schilling, and Robert Schumm, mayor of Lawrence.

Part of the building's planned 40,000 square feet will be a state-of-the-art educational facility. An extensive periodical library and advanced audiovisual equipment will aid the GCSAA education staff in the growth and development of their program and seminars.

In addition to being situated on a championship golf course, the building will be highlighted by fountains and a wide variety of shrubs and flowers. Some \$300,000 worth of professionally designed landscaping will complement the neighboring golf course. "We wanted the landscape to reflect the professional quality that our members maintain on their golf courses," Schilling explained.

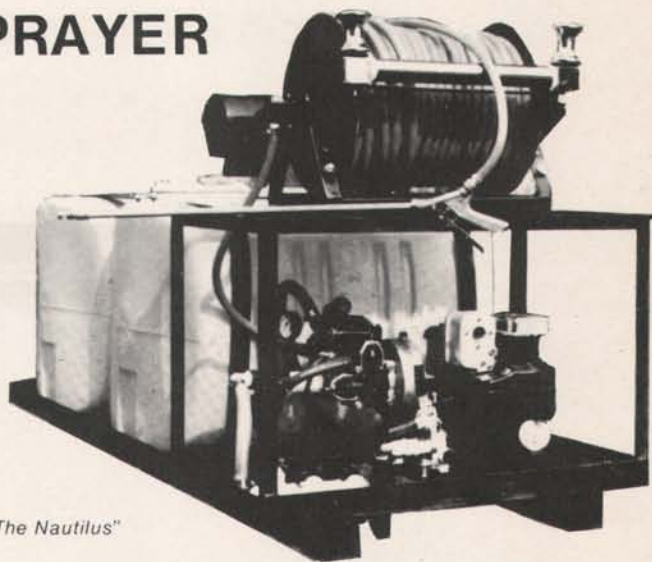
PUBLIC CONCERNS ABOUT HERBICIDE ADDRESSED

Forty years of worldwide use have made 2,4-D one of the best known and most trusted herbicides, according to a recent report published by Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data.

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Because it is extremely effective against weeds and brush and relatively inexpensive, the compound is popular with pesticide applicators. These users consider 2,4-D safe and reliable, and have used it for four decades.

Numerous government regulatory agencies and scientific organizations have studied the herbicide's environmental impact on both applicators and manufacturing employees. Their scientific evaluations conclude that 2,4-D can be produced and used with minimal risk when appropriate work practices are followed, according to the Industry Task Force.

Recent studies of Kansas and Nebraska farmers have raised concerns about a possible link between 2,4-D and a rare form of cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. However, these studies run contrary to the total weight of the scientific evidence supporting 2,4-D, the Task Force states.

Following publication of the Kansas farm worker study in 1986, a number of regulatory and scientific bodies reviewed the evidence on 2,4-D. Their consensus is that the herbicide poses minimal risk to the general public, and any risks to applicators and manufacturing workers can be minimized through good work habits and the use of protective clothing. In addition, the Task Force reports the following:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that there is insufficient evidence to classify 2,4-D as a carcinogen and that "... continued use [of 2,4-D] while waiting for other data will not pose a significant hazard to the environment or public health." (March 1988)

- A special panel supported by the Canadian Center for Toxicology concluded that "... existing animal and human data are insufficient to support the find that 2,4-D is a carcinogen ..." and found insufficient evidence that existing uses of 2,4-D pose a significant threat to public health. (March 1987)

- An expert panel commissioned by the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology concluded that use of 2,4-D poses minimal risk when appropriate work practices are observed. (December 1987)

- A bulletin issued by Agriculture Canada stated, "... the safety associated with 2,4-D remains acceptable." (February 1989)

A number of studies in four different countries have not found a link between 2,4-D and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or any other human cancer. These studies would indicate that the herbicide does not pose a threat to public health, even among the most intensively exposed persons.

The most important route of exposure is through the skin. However, studies indicate that only six percent of the 2,4-D that contacts the skin is absorbed into the body. Good industrial hygiene practices, including the proper use of rubber gloves and other safety equipment, can significantly reduce exposure.



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