



Pesticide Concerns

In this issue, readers will notice what seems to be a new department: "Applicator's Log." Actually, it is the "Chemical Log," which has been running for years, but now appears with a less pejorative ("bad") word in the title.

Chemicals in general, and pesticides in particular, have developed such a negative connotation over the last 30 years that the search goes on unabated for ways to cut back on those "necessary evils." As Jim Puhalla's "Sports Turf Basics" article points out this issue, proper cultural management is one way. Another way, as the "Applicator's Log" points out, is through proper application.

Staying current on those and other ways is, of course, a challenge to everyone. Classes, magazines and books have always provided much needed help, and now there's the Internet. In the wide world of the latter, the following may be the most comprehensive source.

Where: On the World Wide Web/Internet at the following site: <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/pat/pat.htm>.

What: The Pesticide Education Resources home page — sponsored by the Environmental Programs Office of the University of Nebraska — contains information about pesticide topics of interest to turf managers, farmers, producers, applicators and consumers.

Pesticide menu items include the following: applicator education, health and safety, information databases, protection of the environment, laws and regulations, and integrated pest management (IPM).

The national pesticide applicator training core manual, *Applying Pesticides Correctly*, is available as an aid for pesticide applicators who are studying for certification. Interactive self-tests are in each of the chapters. Pesticide applicators with Internet access can study the manual in preparation for their general standards certification examination.

The pesticide education resource page also contains the *Nebraska Private Applicator Self-Study Manual*; *The Label* newsletter; pesticide-related sources of information such as **EX**tension **TOX**icology **NET**work; pesticide label and MSDS databases; USDA chemical databases; Worker Protection Standard (WPS) information; and access to other web sites containing pesticide-related information. A down-loadable pesticide-related bookmark file is one example of recent additions.

Who: Clyde L. Ogg (e-mail: evpr006@unlvm.unl.edu) and Larry D. Schulze (e-mail: evpr003@unlvm.unl.edu). Phone: (402) 472-1632.

If you have any questions regarding pesticides, don't hesitate to call or e-mail either of those two gentlemen. They are very helpful and friendly.

Curb Appeal Sells

By Floyd Perry

As I travel around the country visiting different facilities (the present count is over 3,400 fields in the last four years), the most glaring problem I notice is the lack of signs and directions to local complexes. One town just fin-



ished a quality softball and youth complex, and it took us three gas stations before anyone even recognized the name of the complex, never mind the location.

Other communities — and granted they may be smaller in size — advertise their product as you enter the town by signing "Home of the Walter Williams Athletic Complex."

If your community is going to spend thousands of dollars on a "state of the art" softball or baseball youth facility, then at least let your local patrons and visitors know where it's located.



Whether you choose monuments, plaques, trendy characters or outstanding murals, make a statement that sets your facility apart from the standard.

Realtors will be the first to tell you "curb appeal" sells the property. As managers and supervisors, let's dress up our windows by creating a positive image on, off and surrounding the fields.