

WESTERN VIEWS

Fall 1993

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

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This permanent mixing/loading pad costs approximately \$15,000

PESTICIDE MIXING AND LOADING PADS

TURFGRASS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Gregory T. Lyman

Fall is here. With the weather cooling down and the schools back in session, many superintendents are able to catch a quick breath and lately, watch it rain. Along with dealing with the rain, many have been shifting gears on pesticide mixing and loading pads. The compliance date of October 29, 1994, seemed to be a far off vision when Regulation 637 landed in our laps a year ago. The end of October is right around the corner and the letter of the law directs that we should have our mixing and loading pads in place at that time. However, since this industry will not be applying pesticide products during the winter months, the compliance date will effectively be delayed until next spring.

I have just completed the first round of seminars which featured pesticide mixing and loading pads, storage facilities, and equipment washing

pads. I will be offering this seminar again before next spring for those of you which would like an in depth investigation of these topics. There were several important comments that I learned from these seminars. One of them was a concern voiced by many participants that they had been interested in constructing a pesticide facility for some time, but were hesitant until legislation from all state agencies would provide some clear direction. I think that time is now, and while I would hate to speculate on the life span of our current rules not changing, I feel that it is time to make the leap of faith and proceed toward compliance.

Listed below are some highlights of Regulation 637 with respect to mixing and loading operations. Rule number six in the regulation describes mixing and loading pads and rule number seven describes washing and rinsing pads. The language of these two rules are similar and if you have a mixing and loading pad, you have a washing and rinsing pad. The intent is also similar - to control potential point sources of contamination which may occur from the use of pesticides. If you have an area which is routinely

used for mixing spray loads or for washing of application equipment, we need to prevent any material from being released and reuse it in the application process. After understanding the requirements, you will need to decide whether you are already in compliance, can amend your current facility, or would like to construct a new facility.

Some of the most important points in these rules are:

The pads need to be in place on October 29, 1993.

Again, for our industry this really means next spring. Many people have asked how active the MDA will be in enforcing this part of the rule. In answering this question I need to step lightly as I interpret MDA policy, but I feel that if you have plans to adjust your practices or facilities and you are moving in that direction, then MDA will certainly work with you. I would speculate that the MDA will be directing their enforcement activities toward the outliers - those that have made the decision to not comply until they are caught. I refer to the Bo Jackson approach - Just Do It. Not

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One of the field day stops included this portable spray pad

President's Message

The season is beginning to wind down. But that doesn't mean that there aren't plenty of things going on. Our year ends with three major events: Golf Day; the Annual Meeting and Election; and the Fall Party.

This year's Golf Day (Turf Research Benefit Day) will be held at the always perfectly manicured Egypt Valley Country Club on September 13th. The event will be held on the valley course, while the ridge course will serve as the alternate course. A great day is planned and I hope everyone has an enjoyable time.

Our annual meeting and election will be held at Thornapple Creek Golf Course on the 28th of September with Larry Murphy as our host. An excellent slate of candidates has been set up and each candidate's profile has been sent to you to help determine the best person for the job. Briefly, the slate consists of Harry Schuermann for President, Paul Schippers and Pat

Meerman for Vice-President, Keith Paterson for Secretary/Treasurer and Al Bathum, Doug Boyle, Tom McGuinness, and Paul Wicks for Directors. Also, at this meeting, we will voting on a dues increase, which hits near and dear to all our hearts.

Last and certainly not least is our Fall Party. Bill Madigan will be hosting at the Country Club of Jackson on November 6th. If you have ever attended anything at the Country Club of Jackson you know that this will be the best spread of food that you have ever feasted upon. It will be first class all the way. For those of you who have never attended any of our Fall Parties, you are missing out on a very nice evening that you probably owe to your wife, girlfriend, significant other, or a "woman you know". To Kathys Antaya and Hilbert, there is no chauvinism intended.

The season may be coming to an end, but the fun is just beginning. I hope you will be able to attend and enjoy all these events.

Chris Fochtman CGCS

FIELD DAY 1993

In spite of ominous skies more than 1000 turf managers and suppliers gathered at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center on August 19th for the 1993 Turfgrass Field Day. Co-sponsored by Michigan State University and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, this annual event offers a close-up look at current research projects as well as the latest in turf management equipment and supplies.

Research projects were presented through two separate tours; one designed for golf course superintendents and a second tour for individuals engaged in other area of turf management. Among the most popular projects shown were studies measuring the fate of pesticides and fertilizers applied to turf; biological controls of turfgrass pests; and a new system for aerifying greens from within. Other popular stops included an update of the Silverdome project as well as compliance with Regulation #637.

At this latter stop, Greg Lyman, MSU's Environmental Education Specialist in Turf, showed alternatives for the mixing/loading of pesticides. Turf managers visiting this stop were able to view both a

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Field Day (continued)

permanent mixing/loading pad combined with pesticide storage, as well as a portable pad. With the October 29th deadline for compliance nearing, much interest was generated by this stop.

Following the morning research tours, Field Day attendees strolled across Mt. Hope Rd. to the equipment show. It was here that they were able to discuss with suppliers some of the products and concepts that they had heard about during the morning. They also had the opportunity to bid on numerous items of equipment and supplies that had been donated for the annual auction. This year's auction was one of the most successful, with over \$16,000



"This year's auction was one of the most successful"

being provided for turfgrass research.

Two members of the WMGCSA played important roles in the success of this year's field day. Harry Schuemann CGCS, from Crystal Springs CC and MTF Treasurer, was instrumental in the

appearance of the Hancock Center. He and several of his employees spent the afternoon prior to the Field Day helping the Hancock Center staff in cleaning equipment and generally getting the facility ready. In addition, Harry oversaw the installation of new landscaping that was in evidence during the Field Day. John Read of Spartan Distributors was also invaluable to the success of this year's event. John took it as a personal challenge to find better used equipment for the auction and was obviously successful based on the dollars bid. In fact, John was a successful bidder on several items himself.

On behalf of the entire MTF Board of Directors, let me offer our thanks to both these WMGCSA members for a job well done. And also a big thank you to all of you who attended this year's Field Day either as suppliers or turf industry personnel. We appreciate your continued support of this event.

Jim Bogart, President M.T.F.

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Pesticide Pads (continued)

complying does not help the image of this industry. If you need help, call me.

A pad is required if you mix/load or wash/rinse more than 10 days on one site. A site is defined as an area of 1/2 mile radius.

If you do not use pesticides for more than 10 times during the year on a site, then you do not need a pad. Any facility or mixing area located within 1/2 mile of each other is considered the same site. If this rule applies to you, I would document your procedures to implicate field mixing and loading for added safety measures.

Hand-held equipment is exempt. Backpack and hand can sprayers are do not fall within this

rule as well as push spreaders for granular applications.

Pad Size - The minimum all pads must contain is minute of discharge from your filling device. If the pad is placed outside and uncovered, it must contain a 6" rainfall.

What is the capacity of your filling device. Is it 10-15 gallons per minute or is it 75-80 gallons per minute. That is the minimum of what you need to contain which is not much liquid. For the golf industry, any area in which is bermed or sloped for containment will probably hold you whole spray tank.

The pad needs to be an impervious surface. This can be sealed concrete, chemical resistant plastic, etc.

There are no material standards

in this rule, simply performance standards. Make it impervious - which gives you the latitude to be creative. There are several portable pads available which will be very useful for many operations and an easy method for compliance. Others will want something more permanent and seal a concrete area. There are many sealants available which vary in structure, performance, and cost. Make sure it is chemically resistant and then pick the one that is right for your operation.

We will see plenty of activity in this area in the coming months. I will be offering the mixing an loading pad seminar again in your area in the near future. Stay tuned to your association for more information. I am here to help, so give me a ring.



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