

CGSA Statement on the Use of Pesticides as a Component of Golf Course Management

CGSA supports the use of federally registered pest control products as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in order to provide consistent and quality playing conditions on Canadian golf courses.

Registered pest control products are those that have been approved and are regulated by the Federal Government Pest Management Regulatory Agency for use on golf courses. These approved and regulated products should only be used by those who are trained and licensed in their use and handling. Superintendent and assistant superintendent members of the CGSA are required to maintain a valid pesticide license as a condition of membership in the Association.

The CGSA support for the availability and use of registered pest control products is conditional on the following provisions;

- Golf courses should use only products that are approved for use on golf courses;
- All pesticide storage facilities provided on golf courses should conform to the applicable provincial regulations;
- All pesticide containers and pesticide wastes should be disposed of in accordance with applicable provincial regulations;
- All mixing, loading and application of pesticides should be performed by provincially-licensed pesticide applicators in accordance with provincial regulations;
- The application of pest control products should follow provincial recommendations and regulations related to environmental conditions such as maximum wind speeds, width of buffer zones and distance from adjacent properties;
- Licensed applicators should use best management practices to minimize potential drift, leaching, run off and other forms of contamination of non target areas;
- All pest control products should be used according to label directions;
- Superintendents should utilize appropriate methods to communicate with members of the golfing and non-golfing community as to the rationale for an application of pest control products;
- Superintendents should observe provincial regulations for the public posting of applications and all applicable Material Data Safety sheets should be kept onsite and be readily available;
- Golf course personnel should participate in a provincial pest management accreditation program, where available.

Conscientious turf management practices and the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles should ensure the continued health and playability of turf on golf courses.

The CGSA supports ongoing research to constantly improve turf management practices furthering the enjoyment of the game of golf.