

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



The beginning of another year! As the saying goes, "Time waits for no one," and how true that is. We all become one year older whether we are ready or not. One of my Christmas presents got me to thinking on this theme.

Two of my children gave me a 35 mm camera as a gift. I was surprised and my thoughts drifted back to the three previous cameras that I've had in my lifetime.

I got my first small box camera when I was 12 years old. Sorry to

say, but I begged for it from my aunt. She felt the three dollars that it cost was too expensive and so my Grandfather paid for part of it. Through the next 14 years it recorded the activities of my six sisters and our growing up on the farm.

The next camera was a birthday gift from my boyfriend, who is now my husband. It was an expensive one with a lot of settings and it recorded the children who came into our family. Every year, for 30

NEWARK, DE. — In cold weather, pesticide use decreases. But accidental poisonings are still possible as a result of haphazard

years, we recorded our family's growth on Christmas cards. It is a real pleasure to look over them now as the six boys and girls are all grown and living away from home.

Next I bought myself a newer camera to record some of my travels to Europe, the Caribbean and Hawaii. But for some reason I've been disappointed with the pictures and often borrowed one from my daughter to take on trips.

Now, as years have passed, I suppose that I'll be taking pictures with my new camera of our three grandchildren when they come to visit. And, if I'm lucky, there may be more vacations to record for posterity.

Proper pesticide storage can prevent accidents

storage or careless use on the occasional winter pest.

"Improper use or storage of pesticides cause most accidental pesticide poisonings," says Mark Graustein, University of Delaware extension entomologist. The most likely victims of these accidents are children under 5 years old.

By observing simple precautions, pesticide users can prevent many of these accidents. "Use good judgment when purchasing pesticides," Graustein says. "Buy only amounts that can be used within a reasonable time. This eliminates the problem of long-term storage." Graustein adds that some pesticides lose their effectiveness when stored for long periods, while others increase in potency. Expiration dates are often included on product labels.

"Never give a pesticide to a

neighbor or friend unless the product is in the original container with the label intact," he warns. Using any other container is illegal and can lead to accidental poisoning.

"Mix and measure pesticides in a well lighted, well ventilated area," advises the specialist. Don't leave partially or completely empty containers open or unattended while applying the pesticide. To avoid accidental spills or contamination, and to protect curious children and pets, close and return all containers to the storage area."

The ideal storage site is warm, dry and inaccessible to children, pets and unauthorized adults. It should be locked, particularly if children are nearby. Store food, pet foods and plant materials in a separate area to prevent their contamination by accidental chemical spills, leaks or fumes.

Graustein says freezing reduces the effectiveness of some pesticides. Also, expansion of chemicals due to freezing can crack or break glass containers, resulting in potentially dangerous leaks and spills. Excessively high temperatures (greater than 110 degrees F) can also alter a pesticide and produce dangerous fumes, making the storage area unsafe.

Thoroughly wash pesticide application equipment after each use and store it with the pesticide. Graustein recommends storing herbicides separately from other pesticides. "The fumes from a volatile herbicide can contaminate other chemicals without physical contact," he explains. "Using a herbicide-contaminated fungicide, for example, can destroy desirable plants." Since some herbicides are highly flammable, he advises marking their storage area clearly in case of fire.

Graustein offers this final advice. "Be sure all stored pesticides have complete labels. Check to make sure lids are tightly closed, and put warning signs on the pesticide storage area. The additional protection you'll get is worth the extra time."

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