The committee will make its final funding decisions by December, according to USGA Green Section National Director Jan Snow.

Some successful proposals, especially those in the North, where experimental plantings need to be made before the onset of winter, could be notified earlier, he added. The 10 to 12 proposals chosen begin receiving money by next February, the USGA official said. The proposals have ranged from a $40,000, three-year University of Maryland study on valuation of cultivation techniques for white grub control to a $295,000, three-year University of California at Riverside study of the fate of pesticides and nitrogen in a turfgrass environment.

The $3 million funding package is part of the USGA’s overall three-year, $8.4 million research effort, more than double any previous spending on research. “Right now the game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of fertilizers and pesticides,” said USGA President C. Grant Spaeth. “I can think of nothing more urgent to golf than to answer this environmental question and to propose responsible solutions.”

The Research Committee plans to expand its current 13 members to include officials from a government agency like the Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental organization like the Audubon Society and a technical turf expert, according to Snow. The committee currently consists of Chairman Snow; Green Section Committee Chairman Raymond Anderson; Sea Island (Ga.) Golf Club superintendent Tom Burton; Iowa State University Professor Nick Christians; USGA Executive Director David Fay; University of California at Riverside Professor Vic Ginesvich; Peter Hovey, director of the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England.

Also Howard Kaerwer, a retired turfgrass researcher, Northrup King, Inc.; USGA Director of Green Section Research Mike Kennan; Director of Green Section Administration Dean Knuth; University Professor Paul Rieker; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America secretary/treasurer Bill Roberts; and Jim Watson, vice president of Toro Co.

The project will be the responsibility of the Green Section Committee chaired by Anderson. The GCSAA is cooperating with the USGA on this enterprise.

Spaeth promised the USGA will enter the program with no preconceived position. “We must maintain a position as the honest and independent broker,” he said.

The studies will examine whether fertilizers and pesticides contaminate ground water and, if they do, the duration of their impact.

The USGA plans to appoint a wildlife ecologist to help golf courses develop and preserve wildlife habitat. “Golf courses are often ideally suited for the preservation of wildlife species and we want to assist our members in improving their habitat,” Spaeth said.

“Field days”

Continued from page 18

Green Section deciding $3M in research funds

The game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of fertilizers and pesticides.

— C. Grant Spaeth, USGA President

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