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Nuisance water may be godsend
University of Nevada researchers are studying ways to use untreated runoff water 3

User-friendly
EPA official urges environmentally safe golf course projects 8

'Toxo-terrorists'
Exposing fancy and unveiling fact are musts of the future for superintendents 13-14

Pesticide law
California superintendents come under restrictions of old agriculture regulations 13-14

2nd quarter 1991 course update

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COURSE MAINTENANCE
Audubon, courses team up to save wildlife 15
Wildlife at refuge at John's Island West 15
Greg Graham always tournament-ready 16

COURSE DEVELOPMENT
Japanese stay active in U.S. marketplace 27
Las Vegas thrives in face of recession 27
Monthly update: Planned, approved courses ... 36-37

COURSE MANAGEMENT
Management companies do it all 41
Owners association gains members 41
Kemper signs pact 41

SUPPLIER BUSINESS
Bermudagrass test results released 45
Marketing conference speakers announced 46
Turfseed field days draw crowds 47

Major changes expected in revisions of wetlands laws
By Mark Leslie
Wetland regulations that have handcuffed golf course developers and created long, expensive waits for approvals are being rewritten — and loosened extensively — on two fronts.

End of drought won't solve Calif. woes
By Peter Blais
RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Water will continue to be in short supply for many years in California because of the six-year drought, increased demand, and environmental concerns, according to a Southern California water expert.

High Court ruling said 'scary'
By Peter Blais
The recent Supreme Court ruling freeing local governments to impose pesticide regulations that conflict with federal law could severely restrict the use of golf course chemicals, according to a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America official.

In the case of the Town of Casey, Wis. v. Ralph Mortimer et al, the court ruled unanimously June 21 that the language of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act does not allow it to preempt locally passed regulations.

The decision overturned a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that FIFRA continued on page 23

First facilities open for handicapped
By Mark Leslie
Two golf facilities built especially for the physically challenged will open within the next month, marking milestones in an industry that has been slow to respond to the needs of handicapped people.

In Akron, Ohio, Edwin Shaw Hospital is completing the first course in the country designed especially for handicapped golfers.

John's Island West golf course in Vero Beach, Fla., illustrates how golf courses can be havens for plant and wildlife. For the story, see page 15. Photo by Kit Bradshaw

Major changes expected in revisions of wetlands laws
By Mark Leslie
Wetland preservation regulations that have handcuffed golf course developers and created long, expensive waits for approvals are being rewritten — and loosened extensively — on two fronts.

A revision of the much-maligned federal wetlands delineation manual — used by the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Soil Conservation Service since 1989 — is under review and is said to more narrowly define what constitutes a wetland.

Further up Pennsylvania Avenue, congressmen have answered the call of voters and drafted legislation to correct deficiencies they see in the wetlands protection system.

Some conservationists are angry, Linda Winter, director of wetlands programs for the Izaak Walton League, said a scientifically sound definition is "being thrown out and ignored for political reasons.

One EPA ecologist resigned and another asked that his name be dropped from the credits of the revision.

But others are looking forward to changes.

Continued on page 28

End of drought won't solve Calif. woes
By Peter Blais
RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Water will continue to be in short supply for many years in California because of the six-year drought, increased demand, and environmental concerns, according to a Southern California water expert.

"We are going to see changes in our landscapes and maybe in our lifestyles if the shortages are severe enough and long enough,"