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GOLF COURSE NEWS
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N.Y. AG attacks industry's chemical use

By Peter Biais
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has labeled as "unsupported by fact, inaccurate and misleading" a report that golf course pesticides are jeopardizing ground water on New York's Long Island.

But state Attorney General Robert Abrams' office stands by its office's report.

Spokeswoman Leslie Gersing said the study is not meant as an attack on the golf industry. Instead it should be viewed as a way to begin reducing pesticide use on golf courses, which use far more of the chemicals than lawn care companies or agriculture, she added.

"We found that golf courses used chemicals with the greatest ability to leach into ground water," she said. "There are ways to use healthier pesticides that are less harmful to ground water."

Information for the report, titled Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses, was voluntarily supplied by the association's scholarship programs and additional funds to finance research projects complementing the U.S. Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Director of Communications Pat Jones has been appointed director of development for the department, which will attempt to raise $1 million to permanently cap-italize the association's scholar-ship programs and addi-tional funds to finance research projects complementing the U.S. Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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N.G. extingushes seed growers' burns

By Bob Spiwak
Field burning of turfgrass in Oregon will be a thing of the past by the turn of the century.

On Aug. 7, on a hill overlooking Willamette Valley, Gov. Barbara Roberts signed into law a measure that will gradually decrease the number of acres of fields that can be burned.

The bill also increases fees growers will pay to burn, and provides $500,000 a year from state coffers to finance re-search into alternatives to setting the fields afire.

Burning has long been done to remove straw and thatch from turf fields, with an added benefit of limiting dis-eases. With more than 400,000 acres of turf seed in cultivation in the valley, the smoke produced has long been a source of controversy.

Two decades ago, a move was made to eliminate the fires, but never came to pass. In 1975, a limit of 550,000 acres allowed to be burned was established.

The new law decreased field burning to 180,000 acres this year, down to 40,000 by 1998 and an ultimate ban two years later.

Propane flaming was restricted to 75,000 acres, with a ban on that method after 1998 unless federal and state pollution standards are met.

According to Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council, burning with propane produces a smaller volume of smoke than open burning, while ridding the fields of crown stubble and disease.

There is a tradeoff. Whereas a hun-dred acres can be purged in a half hour later.

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Mobay appeals $4.75M EPA fine

PHILADELPHIA — A $4.75 million penalty, the largest ever for a new chemical violation, has been as-essed against Mobay Corp. of Pittsburgh, for violations of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued administrative complaints against Mobay and fellow major chemical company Allied Colloids, Inc. of Suffolk, Va. The Allied Colloids fine was $2 million.

A Mobay spokesman said the firm contends that it had complied with the law, and plans to appeal.

Penalties against Mobay and Allied Colloids were de-termined by applying an en-