**IPMs know no limits, experts say**

Integrated Plant Management programs have nearly limitless potential, experts told superintendents at the Golf Course Superintendents Association’s International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans in February.

"An IPM is only limited by our imagination. It’s not cheap. It’s not easy. The best way it will work is if superintendents share ideas," Tim Hiers, John’s Island West, their chairmanship, Golf Day raised $11,000 in 1990 and more than $14,000 in 1991. Kocher is chairman again this year.

The purpose of Golf Day is to raise money for turfgrass research. Money is raised by asking golfers to make a $1 per person contribution. "If you have a weed, it’s going to produce weed heads. Then you’re going to have more weeds. Don’t let anybody make you think that’s better than a healthy course. IPM is better for the environment. A healthy golf course is going to produce more oxygen, use more carbon dioxide... There’s no substitute for a healthy golf course," Kocher said, adding, “Sometimes we look at technology as our saving grace, rather than going back to the basics.”

"We are hopeful the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation and the new Envirotron laboratory will provide valuable information that will support our mutual efforts."
IPM programs limited only by superintendents' imagination

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• Take advantage of the dew when you spray.
• Know your threshold level for wind when applying chemicals.
• Look at the reason for the problem. "Is it shade, poor drainage, imbalanced soil? How about water quality? Maybe your water pH is high. Tests show that in some cases in 20 minutes of mixing organic phosphate with high-pH water, you can reduce organic phosphate's effectiveness 50 percent."
• Tree trimming. Most people associate disease and tree problems with shade. Air circulation is just as critical.
  John's Island West's pesticide budget for 36 holes has been reduced $21,000, largely due to more sunlight and better management from removal of 4,200 palm trees and 165 live oaks.
• Tree roots must be pruned. Tree roots will outgrow turf every time. "Trim them, and you will see a dramatic difference in your turf."
• If you redesign your irrigation system, have a set of heads for the greens only and the tees only. Normally those two grasses are totally different.
  • Spread out traffic.
  • Aerate. A deeper root system equals healthier plants. Top dressing controls thatch.
  • Apply techniques to reduce water usage. "You have to be careful with them, and research what you're going to use. But I can say they work." 
  • If an area is out of play, plant it in ground cover. There is no mowing, no fertilization, no pesticides.
  • Use a camera. "We have to sell ourselves to our members... Why? So that when you suggest changes you have credibility."

THE TEAM SYSTEM
Start recommended superintendents use training and the team approach in their IPM programs.
He suggested:
  • Set up a team. Members must be trained to interact as well as perform their responsibilities.
  • Develop a plan of action and put it in writing. "Communication is important so everyone in the club knows they're working to a goal, what the goal and the timeframe are. Define the tools necessary to accomplish it."
  • Monitor the course. A "scout," trained in turf maintenance, should regularly check the course — both visibly and with diagnostic tools. "Inspect and sample at the same time of day so measurements are comparable."
  • For overseeding low cut areas and establishing greens and tees, no other fertilizer provides the kind of coverage and nutrient distribution that Country Club 10-18-18 does.
  • The ratios that result from higher learning.

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