Survey: Supers applying fewer, safer pesticides

By Hal Phillips

More than 80 percent of golf course superintendents surveyed by the Gallup Organization indicated they have altered their maintenance practices compared to three years ago, citing pressure from government regulations, economic factors and environmental concerns.

The 1994 Sandoz National Environmental Poll, conducted by Gallup, contacted a random sample of 2,050 professionals who apply pest control products: farmers, roadside vegetation managers, lawn care workers, pest control operators, mosquito district managers and small animal veterinarians. This year’s biennial survey included, for the first time, golf course superintendents.

Question: Do people in your industry use safer pest control products than they did five years ago? Yes — 61% No — 36% ****

Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available? Always — 70% Sometimes — 27% Never — 3% ****

Question: Are you doing things differently regarding use of pest control products? Yes — 67% No — 30% ****

WINTER KILL

Mid-Atlantic superintendents are reporting huge turf loss following the toughest winter in 16 years.

Turf program makes grade at Fla. high school

By Hal Phillips

The look of single-stripping with a triplex? Yep ...

BRINGING NEW MEANING TO 'EARTH MOVING'

By Hal Phillips

GLENDALE, Calif. — While some golfers claim their home course plays differently each time out, Shoa Canyon Golf Course almost certainly will.

Currently under construction, Shoa Canyon — an American Golf Corp. project designed by Williams, Gill & Associates — isn't your typical 18-hole, short course built on a mountain-top landfill. Portions of the 60-acre site are sinking at rates of up to six feet per year.

The recent Los Angeles earthquake dropped one green down a full foot overnight, according to Dale Siemans, president of Fresno-based Daylen Inc., which is in charge of the project.

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POOLING RESULTS IN HUGE WORKERS’ COMP SAVINGS

By Peter Blais

Some Ohio course operators are enjoying an 85 percent reduction in their workers compensation insurance costs because of legislation passed in the Ohio general assembly and the efforts of the state’s golf course owners association.

Bills authorizing the pooling of similar businesses for insurance purposes have been authorized in 40 states, according to Charles Freutel, national sales manager with the Frank Gates Service Co., a research and benefits consulting firm. This grouping allows members to obtain lower workers’ compensation rates than they could individually.

Golf course owners associations in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advantage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

“There may be others out there as well that I’m just not familiar with,” said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners Association.

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PESTICIDE FATE MODEL MAY BE INACCURATE

By Dr. Mike Kenna

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Researchers here at the Georgia Agriculture Experiment Station have suggested that one of the mathematical models used by environmental regulators and scientists to predict the fate of pesticides will need a major overhaul before it accurately represents what happens on golf course turf.

“Results indicate that the GLEAMS (Groundwater Loading Effects of Agriculture Management Systems) mathematical model is commonly used to help identify chemical and soil properties, as well as plant and meteorological factors influencing the transport of similar businesses for insurance purposes.

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