Pesticide Purge?

ANTI-PESTICIDE GROUPS TARGET MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES, WORK TO BUILD CLOUT

On April 21, the day before Earth Day, more than 100 environmentalists, cancer activists, politicians and organic landscapers gathered at the Timber Point CC in Great River, Long Island, N.Y., with an “Organic Golf” luncheon and golf outing.

The group was celebrating because Suffolk County officials in New York had agreed on a policy to dramatically cut pesticides by implementing an organic program at Timber Point’s golf course. Future plans call for similar approaches at three other public courses and five yet-to-be-built county courses on the drawing board. Reaction from superintendents has been mixed.

“I am happy to see the county experiment with low or no pesticide programs,” says Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton CC in Westhampton Beach, N.Y. “Let the municipal courses be the guinea pigs.”

Suffolk County is not alone. Since Huntington, N.Y., became the first municipality in the country to completely ban chemicals on its two public golf courses in 1997, pressure by environmental activists on city and county officials to slash pesticide use on public property has increased nationwide. The result is no pesticide or reduced pesticide programs from Canada to California.

On June 7, Toronto announced a pesticide reduction program in which chemical...
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year. Farm equipment demand continued to decline during the quarter as a result of depressed agricultural commodity prices, which reduced farm income, Deere reported.

In other company news, Deere announced it filed a federal lawsuit to stop Howard Price Turf Equipment of Chesterfield, Mo., from allegedly copying Deere’s design for the Gator utility vehicle. Deere filed suit against Kubota Corp. of Japan in April.

Shotgun Heard ’Round the World

Mark your calendars and ready your divot repair mix for June 24, 2000.

Organizers believe World Shotgun 2000 will be the biggest event in golfing history. On that Saturday, the goal is to have as many golfers as possible around the world strike a shot at the same time, with play coordinated by shotgun starts at the Royal & Ancient GC in St. Andrews, Scotland. Why?

It’s an opportunity to celebrate six centuries of golf and the time-honored traditions of the game, says co-patron Sir Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal & Ancient GC, in promotional materials sent to Golfdom.

“By uniting golfers across the globe on one day, the World Shotgun 2000 will help promote the heritage, integrity and values of the game into the new millennium,” adds Arnold Palmer, co-patron of the event. For more information, check out the Web site www.worldshotgun2000.com or e-mail enquiries@worldshotgun2000.com.

Scanning the Web

Whether you’re nuts about weather or you’re simply interested in interesting online weather resources, here is a dozen to choose from:

- www.almanac.com — The Old Farmer’s Almanac online has everything from long-range forecasts and weather trivia to words of wisdom.
- www.earthwatch.com — EarthWatch Weather on Demand features 3D weather information, forecasts, current conditions, radar and more.
- www.jwiv.nws.noaa.gov — The National Weather Service site averages 1 million hits a day, noting it has “served 1 billion” since 1997.
- www.weather24.com — Short-term forecasts free direct to your e-mail inbox.
- www.usatoday.com/weather/wfront — USA Today newspaper’s online weather page with colorful graphics, radar, forecasts and headlines.
- http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet — This University of Michigan site features thousands of forecasts, as well as many satellite images and links.
- www.landings.com — Up-to-date conditions and satellite images help pilots navigate. The site boasts virtually “every weather link known.”
- www.nssi.noaa.gov — Severe weather preparedness guides from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with sophisticated radar, climate archives and more.
- www.accuweather.com — AccuWeather Inc. offers free and premium services, with five-day forecasts, Doppler radar and dozens of other features.
- www.inteliacast.com — Check out Golfcast, a special feature that alerts golfers to the best and worst places to play based on weather conditions.
- http://weather.yahoo.com — Enter a ZIP code for local forecasts or peruse the storm center, ski and travel information, records, averages and maps.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Mike Perrault.
**Wanted:** Tomorrow’s Leaders

Golfdom is looking for superintendents, assistants and other management professionals, ages 25 to 35, to spotlight in a special awards program that’s focused on the next generation of industry leaders.

Golfdom’s Young Leaders program will identify and profile those who will be the mentors, innovators and influencers of the next decade.

“We want to select the individuals who will be the trailblazers and teachers of tomorrow,” said Pat Jones, publisher. “This is a chance to recognize the best and the brightest.”

Any Golfdom reader can nominate himself or herself or a colleague for the program. Nominations should include name, contact information and a brief description of the person’s outstanding leadership characteristics.

Send nominations to: Golfdom, 7500 Old Oak Blvd, Cleveland, 44130 or submit by e-mail to patrick.jones@advanstar.com.

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**Quotable**

“**If you have a disease, you should spray a fungicide. If you don’t have a disease, you should spray a fungicide. Any questions?**”

— Designer Brian Silva joking about his simple but effective philosophy of disease management.

“I don’t know whether Donald Ross was just having a bad day or what, but he sure had some fun when he built these.”

— Jerry Pate, designer and former U.S. Open champ, on the “inverted spoon” green construction at Pinehurst No. 2.

“During Open week, I guarantee there wasn’t a single green out there that didn’t get mowed 28 times.”

— Paul Jett, CGCS at Pinehurst No. 2, on hosting the U.S. Open.

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**Pesticide Purge?**

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Control methods — including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides — may be used on golf courses and other city property only as a last resort after all other strategies have failed. The city’s proposed integrated plant health care program requires new techniques and alternative maintenance practices to be implemented city-wide to reduce reliance on pesticides, said Claire Tucker-Reid, general manager of Toronto’s Parks and Recreation Division.

Groups such as the Pesticide Action Network of North America have asked the California EPA for dozens of preventive actions, including banning “the worst pesticides” and reducing use of the rest. They’re asking the federal EPA to require pesticide manufacturers to conduct long-term studies to prove that pesticides don’t have adverse affects and to prohibit use of pesticides in some areas.

San Francisco passed a new code to restrict use of pesticides on city property as part of its City Integrated Pest Management Policy. It bans certain categories of pesticides and requires notice of other pesticide use.

What does all this mean for superintendents? The obvious answer is that more superintendents may have to maintain turf using less pesticides — or without pesticides. But that’s easier said than done.

Researchers are busy looking at no-pesticide options. Scientists such as Jack Bailey, Ndaona Chokani and Charles E. Hall Jr., all Ph.D.s at North Carolina State University, are working on a USGA-supported project to reduce the use of pesticides on greens. They’re focusing on disease management based on modifications of microclimates on individual greens.

In Alameda and Contra Costa counties in California, the East Bay Regional Park District in Oakland instituted an IPM program that is researching pest management alternatives and includes an innovative customized mapping and record-keeping system for all major pests for its 50 parks covering 78,000 acres.

Superintendents like Rewinski are trying to reduce chemical usage anyway and say they remain open-minded about the possibility of one day managing turf without chemicals.

“It might be acceptable for several years, but eventually the crabgrass and dandelions will take over unless you have the labor to weed by hand,” Rewinski says. "Maybe they can find a way to make it work. I don’t like using pesticides. I wouldn’t mind seeing the game of golf take a step back from the perfect conditioning required now.”

— Mike Perrault