Study Indicates Golf Course Maintenance Is Multi-Billion Dollar Business

Golf courses in the United States spent an estimated $3.4 billion on golf course maintenance in 1991, according to a recent study released by the Center for Golf Course Management (CGCM).

CGCM is the research subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The study looked at total annual maintenance expenditures, including labor but excluding capital expenses, at 1,164 golf courses. The number of courses involved in the study represents about 9 percent of the 12,846 golf courses reported in the 1991 edition of the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) Golf Facilities in the United States report.

GCSAA Past President Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS, said, “This study clearly illustrates that the golf course maintenance industry is a major industry in the United States and has a major impact on the nation’s economy.”

Cadenelli said the findings demonstrate that the golf course maintenance industry is “an industry of significant proportions”—one that spends an estimated $3.4 billion annually in goods and services, employs thousands of people and continues to grow.

“This information is exceptionally important,” he said, explaining that legislators and regulators seriously consider such data when dealing with laws affecting any industry.

Based on the survey, the projected annual total maintenance expenditure estimates incurred by each facility classification group is: 9 holes, $41 million; 18 holes, $2.4 billion; 27 holes, $251 million; 36 holes, $207 million; and 45 or more holes, $72 million. The estimated expenditures total more than $3.4 billion.

For more information on research about the golf course industry, contact CGCM at 913/841-2240.

EPA Wants More Information On Pesticide Violations

Steve Johnson, director of field operations for EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs, has issued a plea for more information from state pesticide officials. Johnson says his office not only needs to know the number of violations and amount of fines, but also more specific information about the violations themselves—the types of violations and whether they were determined to be willful.

“We need this information to determine the direction and help fulfill the intent of our regulations,” Johnson said. “The more we know, the better decisions federal regulators can make.”