In Brief... 

- Gruesome, but effective. EPA just approved registration for a new compound that uses boric acid as the active ingredient to control fire ants, roaches, termites and weevils. An EPA official said that the compound “eats the guts out of the bugs.”

- Good news/bad news. More than two-thirds of municipal planners agree that golf courses are good for the environment, according to a new study by the National Golf Foundation. The full study, which was released at the Golf Summit, also suggests that 39 percent of all golfers believe that golf course pesticides and fertilizers pollute nearby lakes and streams. Nearly half of the non-golfing public believes that golf courses are polluters.

- It’s getting easier to obtain wetlands permits, says architect Rees Jones. The noted designer told attendees at the International Association of Golf Administrators Conference that the Corps of Engineers has fallen back to the 1988 EPA standards, which provide much clearer definitions of wetlands and remediation techniques. Jones also said that environmental laws “have been a real benefit to golf course architects because we’re now working on the high ground” instead of undevelopable but environmentally sensitive lowlands.

- Looking a gift horse in the mouth. Greenpeace is fighting to make a European aid agency take back 200 tons of pesticide products that have been donated to boost the ravaged economy of Albania. Greenpeace calls the gift “a deadly donation.”

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