

GCSAA NEWS

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

GCSAA has announced it will participate in the federal government's new Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Under the program, GCSAA will work in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop a strategy that further reduces risks from the use of the pesticides on golf courses.

"We are absolutely committed to using the responsible management practices that pose little, if any, environmental risk," said GCSAA President Gary Grigg, CGCS. "Through this partnership,

we'll be able to work with the leading federal authorities to find new and innovative ways to use pesticides effectively and safely and to minimize any potential harm to people, wildlife and the environment." The stewardship

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program is the first under a commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in September, 1993. The program commits the agencies to work jointly with pesticide user groups.

The EPA's Anne Leslie, who will coordinate GCSAA's strategy development said, "We

are very pleased that GCSAA has joined our Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, and I look forward to working with this professional organization in developing their strategy."

The framework for the

strategy emphasizes education, training, research and continued development, and careful use of pest control products that pose risks. According to Leslie, superintendents are already doing many things very well. "GCSAA has already demonstrated a commitment to educate their members in less risky pest control methods by initiating an

IPM curriculum as a part of their certification program. GCSAA has also established its own Environmental Stewardship Awards program, which highlights the efforts of individual superintendents to reduce the risk of pesticides to the environment. A large number of superintendents have enthusiastically

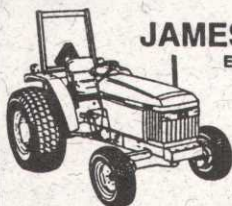
adopted the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which is an important part of this," she said.

Plans call for the strategy to be developed in 1995 and announced during the Environmental General Session of the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show next February in Orlando, Fla.

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