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## GCSAA'S NATIONAL STUDY OF GOLF COURSES CONTINUES PHASE FOUR TO EXAMINE PESTICIDE USE

GCSAA has announced that beginning in January 2008 it will conduct a national survey of golf courses focusing on pesticide use.

The survey is part of a multi-year, first-of-its-kind project being undertaken by GCSAA that will evaluate the environmental performance of golf courses. To date, GCSAA member and non-member superintendents have participated in three phases of the survey focusing on the physical profile of a golf facility; water use and conservation; and nutrient (fertilizer) use. The last phase of the survey to be issued in 2009 will examine maintenance practices on golf courses. The entire data set will establish a baseline for comparison when the surveys are replicated in the future.

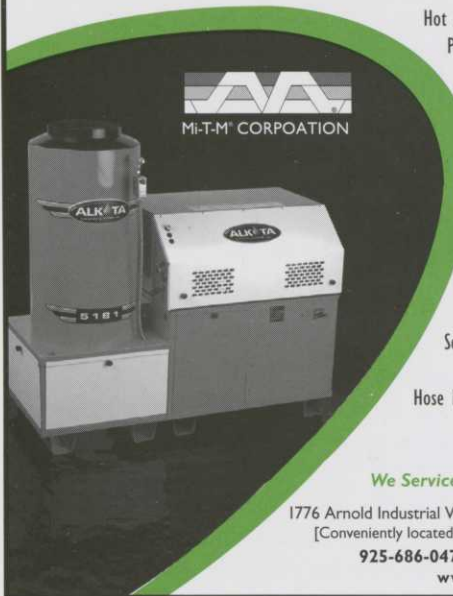
The pesticide survey will be conducted January 8th through March 15th. As in the past, those superintendents with an e-mail address registered with GCSAA will receive an invitation to participate online. The others will be contacted via regular mail with a hard-copy survey or instructions on how to complete it online. Input will be sought on product use and integrated plant management programs. Funding for the first four phases have come from The Environmental Institute for Golf, thanks in part to a grant from The Toro Foundation.

"We are appreciative of the participation we have received in the first three phases," GCSAA Director of Research

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Clark Throssell, Ph.D., said. "This survey will be slightly more entailed, so I encourage superintendents to organize their 2007 records before they begin the process. This is an extremely important project, one which will benefit GCSAA, its members and the game. I cannot stress how important it is for superintendents to participate."

The online survey has been constructed in a manner so that members can complete it in stages rather than in one setting. Participants will need to remember a password they have created in order to return to the survey. GCSAA members completing the survey will receive .25 service points and all participants will be registered in drawings for various prizes. A VISA gift card of \$250 will be awarded to one individual in each of the seven agronomic regions. A grand prize of a flat panel, LCD, HD television will be awarded as well.

The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is designed to collect information that will allow superintendents and other facility personnel to become better managers, help them operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices on the golf course. Results from each phase will first appear in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, then in *Golf Course Management*, the association's monthly publication, then will be widely distributed for consumption by interested parties. Information on the physical profile of golf facilities will be published later this year.

"We see this project as a continuation of the golf industry's commitment to environmental stewardship," said GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D. "Thanks to organizations such as GCSAA and the United States Golf Association, millions of dollars of have already been invested to research golf's impact on the environment. The data tell us that properly managed golf courses are compatible with the environment and that golf facilities contribute positively to communities. Our project will fill in information gaps and provide a road map for advancing golf course management. It is also important that Toro is

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## GCSAA CHAPTER DELEGATES FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Net Promoter Score is based on the formula of those who promote the association (rate GCSAA a 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale) minus the detractors (rate GCSAA 1 through 6). Those rating a 7 or 8 are considered neutral. The Net Promoter Score is "generally" higher among those membership groups who are more engaged: committee members, delegates, etc.

### 2. Compensation and Benefit Report

Salaries and benefits have been going up since 1993. The average salary of GCSAA member superintendents in 1993 was \$44,500, while it was \$73,766 in 2006. Certified members average higher salaries than non-certifieds; Class A members average higher salaries than Class SM. The GCSAA Compensation and Benefit Report is a tool for members to use to their advantage in negotiation for salaries and benefits. Member superintendents who responded to the survey have access to a complimentary subscription to the full 2007 Compensation, Benefits and Operations Report. Those who did not respond to the survey may purchase a copy -- \$100 for members; \$400 for non-members. Visit [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) for more information.

### 3. Golf Course Environmental Profile Project

The first three phases of the Golf Course Environmental Profile Project have been completed with the next phase coming out in January 2008. Information will be vital to addressing various constituents including legislators/regulators, media, environmental community, allied associations, etc. Information will be vital to developing programs and services that advance environmental stewardship at the golf facility. Information will first be published in a scientific journal in late 2007. Additional communication will be widespread.

### 4. Economic Impact Studies

Several economic impact studies are being conducted to measure the role of golf and its economic impact on a state by state basis. The reports also include environmental data that GCSAA is providing (if available) to support the effort. The studies are being conducted under the auspices of Golf 20/20. GCSAA is helping to fund these studies and will alert chapters as to how they can be engaged in these studies.

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recognized for its ongoing commitment to this project. We could not do this without its support."

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 21,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

The Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, is a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course. For more on The Institute, visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org)

For additional information on GCSAA's Golf Course Environmental Profile Project, contact GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D. at [cthrossell@gcsaa.org](mailto:cthrossell@gcsaa.org) or 800-472-7878, ext. 4429.

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