


## "Open House" Approach


**H**ow many times has one heard the comment that the golf course superintendent is the guy that mows the grass? What can be done to alter this image and improve the overall perspective that the golf course superintendent is a true multi-dimensional professional? One idea is to hold an open house of the Operations Center for club members/golfing clientele. **Note the term Operations Center is used, rather than barn or shed. Image is very important!**

An open house can involve stops where (a) the Irrigation Specialist is present to explain the irrigation system operation, maintenance, and repair activities, (b) the Mechanic is present to discuss the preventive service and repair of equipment, (c) the Assistant Superintendent could be in the office area explaining the computer setup, and (d) the Golf Course Superintendent can serve as greeter. Such an open house may not result in a great turnout, but even the opportunity to show 10, 15, or 20 members around the Operations Center can pay dividends in the long run. It is also an event that forces a total cleanup and organization of the Operations Center both inside and outside. Most facilities need this overall cleanup effort at least once a year. **J.B Beard** 

## RESEARCH SUMMARY

### An Assessment of Mercurial Fungicide Residues in Golf Course Soil and Clippings

**D**uring 1997, the Pesticide Management Branch of Alberta Environmental Protection (AEP) sampled ten golf course putting greens throughout Alberta, Canada, that had a wide-ranging history of mercurial fungicide application. Mercury levels in the surface 1.6 in. (40 mm) of soils from greens were often above the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment residential/parkland guideline of 6.6 mg/kg total mercury, with average levels ranging up to 139 mg/kg. Mercury levels at a depth of 4.3 to 5.9 in. (110–150 mm) were below the CCME guideline, except at older courses with a long history of mercury application. Fresh grass clippings obtained from the same putting greens showed mercury levels ranging from below the detection level to 5.61 mg/kg. Selected soil and clippings samples were also submitted for leachate testing to determine if the samples would be regulated as hazardous waste. Leachable levels of mercury present were approximately 2 to 3 orders of magnitude (100 to 1000 times) below the regulatory level of 0.2 mg/L.

**The results point out the need to develop and implement operational guidelines for the utilization or disposal of grass clippings and turf cultivation cores from putting greens treated with mercurial fungicides.** Composting or disposal of clippings or cores in inappropriate locations could result in off-site contamination of soils or water bodies. Also, **course renovations to greens or tees that had been treated with mercurial fungicides must take into consideration the levels of mercury present**, in order that proper management of these contaminated soils can occur, such as temporary on-site storage, on-site entombment, or off-site disposal. [G. Byrtus, Pesticide Management Branch, Alberta Environmental Protection, in *Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre, 1997 Annual Report*. pp. 43–47.] 

## TURFAX™

© Ann Arbor Press

Introductory offer: \$69.95 + shipping and handling

6 issues/year

Available by mail and/or fax

Ann Arbor Press

121 South Main Street

P.O. Box 310

Chelsea, MI 48118

Telephone: 800-858-5299;

734-475-4411

Fax: 734-475-8852

Email: turfax@aol.com

## EDITOR

**Dr. James B Beard**

International Sports Turf Institute Inc.

1812 Shadowood

College Station, TX 77840

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**Dr. Peter H. Dernoeden**

Department of Natural Resource

Sciences and Landscape

Architecture

University of Maryland

College Park, MD 20742

**Dr. Daniel A. Potter**

Department of Entomology

S-225 Agriculture Science Center, N

University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY 40546

**Dr. Fred Yelverton**

Department of Crop Science

Box 7620

North Carolina State University

Raleigh, NC 27695

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Gary Grigg**

Royal Poinciana Golf Club

**Bruce Williams**

Los Angeles Country Club

**Dan Quast**

Medinah Country Club

**Don Tolson**

Stock Farm

**Gordon Witteveen**

Board of Trade Country Club