Have a problem with Canada geese on your grounds and want to do something about it?

Copy this address: Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203.

Then write a letter describing what you think about Canada geese—not the migratory geese, but the freeloaders. The ones that seem to think there is such a thing as a free lunch and it’s served on your grounds each and every day. Describe some of the problems that these geese cause. Don’t put this off. Write this letter now. You only have until June 1 to let the Chief know.

Here’s why it’s important that you write.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering giving state wildlife agencies more authority to control “resident” (freeloading) Canada goose populations. They could control problem geese each year from March 11 to August 31 (May 1 to August 31 in Calif. Ore. and Wash.), and wouldn’t have to get individual permits from the Service each time as is currently required.

This is good news for grounds and turf managers in spite of certain conditions these state agencies would have to meet in reducing the number of these giant pest birds. For example, they could kill the freeloaders only after alternative non-lethal means have proven ineffective or unfeasible. But the proposal certainly gives the state agencies more authority which is good.

The problem, of course, is the large, and growing, population of “resident” Canada geese. They don’t migrate. Although they look like the geese that nest in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada and Alaska, they are, in fact, a distinct subspecies, says the U.S. Wildlife Agency.

Remember, get your letter into the Chief before June 1. LM