GOLF

Golf course building is up, architects say

CHICAGO - Golf course architects are approaching the "magic number" of new golf courses that must be built annually to cope with the increasing number of new players.

A survey of member firms of the American Society of Golf Course Architects reveals that 305 new projects and 268 remodeling assignments are in progress in the U.S. and Canada, both healthy increases from the previous year.

According to statistics from the National Golf Foundation, golf players jumped from 20.2 million in 1986 to 21.7 million in 1987.

Based on those figures, the NGF projects that approximately 387 new courses (one a day) would have to open annually to correct the disparity between the number of players and courses available.

"I honestly believe we could build 400 new courses a year if financing were readily available," says ASGCA president Pete Dye. "If financing manifests itself, then it will be the responsibility of the architect and builder to meet this challenge and produce interesting golf courses that will make those millions of new golfers glad they came out to the course."

PESTICIDES

Deer tick moves into new areas

Baltimore — The deer tick population in the United States is spreading, and with it the threat of Lyme disease.

According to Lee Hellman, Ph.D., the pinhead-sized, Maryland-based pest has been detected in a downward migration into the Appalachians, and may soon reach Virginia and other southern states. Cases of Lyme disease have also been documented in Western states and other worldwide locations.

Hellman says deer ticks attack when in the nymphal stage, which is also the time they carry the Lyme disease virus.

Adult females nest in rodent or pet nests, and then drop off in yards and fields to lay eggs. The first symptom of Lyme disease is a rash around the bite. If untreated, the rash will expand, and heart and nervous conditions or swollen joints may develop.

Two drawbacks in the battle against the disease are that only 75 percent of victims exhibit the rash symptom, and the disease is not always detectable in blood tests. According to Hellman, the disease can be easily controlled by antibiotics, but in some instances disease organisms have escaped the antibiotics and enter body tissue impervious to medication. There they will remain, causing recurrent symptoms.

"Lyme disease will be one of the major health control problems in the eastern United States," warns Hellman.

Hellman says the deer tick can be controlled by most materials now used against turf insects, such as Turfcam, Triumph, diazinon, Dursban, Sevin, or the soon-to-be-available insect growth regulators or synthetic pyrethroids.

MIDWEST HOT SPOT... The drought took its toll on the state of Michigan in 1988. Paul Rieke, Ph.D. at Michigan State University, says portions of the state had .83 inches of rainfall during May and June. Usual rainfall for that time is 6.07 inches. Michigan experienced 37 days above 90°, a mercuric rise from the usual 11 days. Average per day rainfall from April 24-July 15 was .05 inches.

HOUSES DOWN... "We predict that single-family housing construction will continue to inch downward but will remain above the one million unit level. That prognostication comes from Stephen W. Scott, vice president at JI Case. Case, of course, has a vested interest in housing construction because it manufactures construction equipment.

BE COUNTED... The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation has begun a survey of the Michigan green industry. The purpose, according to Tim Doppel, president of Atwood Lawn Spray, is to determine the size and earning power of Michigan's turfgrass industry. "We intend to use the results to show just how important the Michigan green industry is and thereby generate dollars to support research at Michigan State University," says Doppel, who is in charge of the project.

PR DEPARTMENT... "We all have a public relations department, whether we know it or not," says ServiceMaster vice president Rick White. White says "we are making impressions all the time on the people we serve and even people we don't serve."

"The four ways to impress people, hopefully positively: "the condition of our vehicles, answering the phones, the appearance of our employees and the quality of our work."

White says "I think it's time for us to under-promise and over-deliver," instead of vice versa.

BUG DETECTOR... David Smitley of Michigan State reports the drought of 1988 greatly affected the insect populations in areas of Michigan. "European chafer and Japanese beetles expanded their territory, and there was some cutworm and bluegrass billbug movement onto golf course fairways because of the extreme contrast to other drought-stressed areas." Some fairways, he reports, suffered 50 percent turf loss. Interestingly, home lawns in the state showed little insect damage, with 95 percent being strictly drought stress. In fact, many bugs packed up and moved out of those lawns to find enough moisture.
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Here's another added benefit with Cutless. As your turfgrass grows up thicker and more competitive, there's less room for troublesome weeds to interfere. Cutless also helps crowd out Poa annua for conversion to a more desirable turfgrass such as bentgrass.

1. Sprig of grass in normal state.
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Initially you get so little discoloration with Cutless that a golfer would never notice it. But after 4 weeks, the difference was between night and day on how dark green the Cutless turf was.
"Cutless helped us convert from 80% Poa annua to over 95% bentgrass within five years. But I'm just as impressed with how Cutless creates a much thicker turf. It makes the grass as tough as nails, helps the ball sit up higher for our golfers."

Scott Niven
Superintendent, Stanwich Club
Greenwich, Conn.

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NEWS from page 11

GOLF

GCSAA begins environmental management

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The GCSAA has contracted with Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services to develop the first comprehensive environmental management program for the golf industry. Hall-Kimbrell is one of the nation's leading environmental consulting firms.

"We want to help superintendents make their golf courses as environmentally pleasant and safe as possible," says John Schilling, executive director of the golf superintendents association.

The GCSAA feels that coping with regulatory obligations and managing environmental and safety risks are increasingly being recognized as important professional priorities for its members.

The package being provided to superintendents consists of a Compliance Audit Notebook, an instructional videotape and additional printed material. The package deals with issues like pesticide handling and storage, worker safety, underground storage tanks, hazard communication standards and more.

It is available through the GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, KS 66046. Cost is $725 for members and $900 for non-members.

LANDSCAPING

Teamwork gets best results

BALTIMORE — Cooperation and teamwork between lawn care operators and customers remains a green industry issue. Clark Throssel, Ph.D. at Purdue University, believes one part of this relationship is to reconcile customer expectations with actual results.

Speaking to a packed house at the Maryland Turfgrass Conference, Throssel said operators must instill reasonable expectations by realistic statements made in person and in company advertising. "Don't create false illusions of the perfect lawn," Throssel advised. "Avoid statements like 'weed free' or 'grub proof.' Rather, say 'weed control' or 'grub management.'"

Throssel also stressed the importance of homeowner involvement in post-treatment maintenance. "If they don't follow your suggestions," said Throssel, "the results will be less than expected."

Proper mowing height and proper watering are crucial to a successful program. "The numbers on the mower wheels do not refer to mowing height. If a customer says he is cutting at six inches, you can be sure he's looking at the numbers on the wheels."

Since many customers equate a lower height with a nicer lawn, the lawn care professional must advise them otherwise. "They need to know," said Throssel, "that lower mowing is harmful to root growth. The roots will not grow for five or six days afterwards."

"If your customers decide they'd like to experiment on their own," said Throssel, "let them know which species work best for that part of the country, and which species are incompatible. Turf-type tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, for example, will not be successful.

"The competition in the green industry has left a limited customer base," warned Throssel, who suggested being as helpful and available as possible. That means looking for and meeting with prospective customers on Saturdays and weekends.
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**Turfgrass**

**New grass from the Emerald Isle**

Belfast, Northern Ireland — Logro, a dwarf variety of grass bred to grow not more than six inches high, is proving to be a boon to landscapers here. According to a press release, the grass is also being tested in Texas, parts of Canada, New Zealand and East Germany.

“Logro has a prostrate growth habit,” says David Johnston, turf researcher for Queens University at the Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station in Loughgall, Northern Ireland. “It tends to grow horizontally along the ground with the result that there is good ground cover even after close mowing. It also maintains an attractive color, is disease-resistant and it needs to be cut about two-thirds as often as traditional types of grass. The potential for savings worldwide is unlimited.”

Herbicide-resistant varieties called Duchess and Countess are now being tested.

“Both varieties will give a magnificent green sward of almost 100 percent purity,” Johnston continues. “And recent trials in Texas have confirmed that Duchess leads the field in terms of heat tolerance.” He sees money-saving uses for Logro on golf courses, athletic fields, school grounds, office complexes, roadsides, cemeteries and airports.

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**Landscaping**

**ALCA study analyzes costs**

Falls Church, Va. — A recent nationwide study reveals that cash flow is the most critical factor in the success of a landscape management company.

The 1988 ALCA (Association of Landscape Professionals) study reveals that the most critical factor in the success of a landscape management company is cash flow. According to turf experts, excessive thatch must be removed after a hard winter in order to have healthy turf in the spring. Thatch prevents nutrients from reaching down into the root structure. Result: the lawn cannot breathe and grow properly.

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Optional equipment includes boom kits, hose reel kits, and wheel/trailer kits for golf courses, nurseries, or towing.

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LAWN CARE

Public image an issue for '90s

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. -- First, some stats: recent industry surveys indicate 30 percent of a potential 7.5 million single-family home lawns are being treated by professional applicators. The EPA has detected traces of 17 pesticides in 23 states' groundwater. Fifteen others have been detected, but their sources are not identified.

continued on page 22
Golfers may not know leaf spot by name, but it can mark the difference between your course and someone else's. DYRENE® 4 Turf Fungicide has been effectively controlling leaf spot for years. And for every day of control you get, nothing costs less.

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