



Director's Column

by Ray Schmitz, CGCS
Flossmoor C.C.

As we enter into a new decade there are two new laws effective January 1st that pertain to our business. I foresee this to be a trend and perhaps the next 10 years will be called the decade of regulations not only for golf courses but for all industries.

One law that has just come into effect is the posting law for golf courses. The posting law requires golf course superintendents to post a sign at the 1st tee, the pro shop, and the locker rooms. The sign shall read: **"Plant protectants are periodically applied to this golf course. If desired you may contact your golf course superintendent for further information."**

This means that we must be able to supply information to anyone asking a question about chemicals that are applied to our golf course. Keep those MSDS sheets and specimen labels of all of our golf course chemicals available in a separate file. (This is also a law). Closer examination of the wording of the new law is interpreted to mean that we don't have to notify golfers nor adjacent property owners when a chemical is applied unless an individual specifically request us to do so.

Violations shall be considered a petty offense and a fine of \$100.00 shall be assessed for the first offense. The fine increases with additional violations from \$200.00 to \$500.00.

The other law that become effective as of Jan. 1st, 1990 is the proof of liability insurance for our personal and company vehicles. This requires every licensed vehicle in the State of Illinois to have a proof of insurance card in the vehicle.

In my area, police are asking for this insurance card after a routine traffic stop. \$500.00 must be posted until proof of insurance is given. If no insurance, expect to pay \$500.00 and possibly lose your license for 2 months.

In conclusion, let's show our professionalism by knowing the laws and abiding by them. Make sure your applicator's license is up to date or hire someone who has a proper license to apply chemicals for you. Also check the licensed company vehicles for the proof of insurance card. That's the least we can do.

NECROLOGY

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to Don Cross and his family due to the death of his father on February 9th, 1990.

Golf Course Construction Hits 16-Year High in U.S.

JUPITER, Fla. — Golf course construction in the United States reached a 16-year high in 1989, according to the National Golf Foundation's latest research report.

The report, *Golf Facilities in the United States, 1990 Edition*, shows that 290 golf courses opened for play last year, the highest total since 1973. That was a healthy 37 percent increase over the 211 that opened in 1988, which had been the decade's previous highwater mark in openings. It was also a record year for courses under construction (463) and in planning (603).

"These figures are a very positive sign that the golf industry is well on the way to its goal of at least 400 new courses per year," said NGF President and CEO Joseph F. Beditz.

As the *Facilities 1990* report's chapter on Supply and Demand Perspectives points out, for several years the golf industry has been aware of a growing disparity between course construction rates and golfer population growth. In response, the NGF has developed for the industry a long-range strategic plan which projected a need for at least 400 courses yearly until the year 2000.

NGF research is projecting that, at the current rate of growth in the popularity of golf in the U.S., the nation's golfing population could increase from today's 23.4 million to well over 30 million by the end of the century.

Golf Course Openings in 1989 — National Summary

| | Type of Course | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Daily Fee | Municipal | Private | Total |
| Opened as new facilities | 106 | 25 | 59 | 190 |
| Added to existing facilities | 50 | 10 | 40 | 100 |
| Total Courses | 156 | 35 | 99 | 290 |

Public Vs. Private

Of the 290 new courses that opened last year, 191 — 66 percent — were public (daily-fee and municipal) facilities. That percentage is a significant gain over 1988, when 59 percent of openings were public courses. Since 80 percent of all golfers play primarily on public courses, this is a second encouraging sign for the industry's future, which many observers believe depends in large measure on accelerating public golf construction to meet demand. Overall, the supply of public golf facilities is now 61 percent of the nation's course supply.

Summit Item

Golf course development will be one of the key items on the agenda at Golf Summit 90, the third in a series of industrywide strategic planning meetings promulgated by the NGF. Scheduled Nov. 12-14 in Palm Springs, Calif., the Summit will examine the challenges and opportunities impacting golf's growth into the 1990s ... and will update the industry's strategics and plans for maximizing that growth.

Florida Still Tops; Michigan Vaults to 2nd

Florida, which already had more golf courses than any other state (see attached State Summary), led the nation for the fifth straight year with 50 course openings, more than the next three states combined. However, second-place Michigan, with 19 courses, was the most surprising state, nearly quadrupling its 1988 total of five and moving up from 10th place.

On the downside, two traditional leaders fell off their 1988 places. The biggest drop was by Texas, which went from 20 openings to 12 and from second place to sixth. California also

(cont'd. page 4)

Executive Blend

BLUEGRASS SOD

THE BLEND—Combination of 5 disease resistant cultivars chosen on the basis of adaptability to a variety of growing conditions.

SOIL TYPE—820 irrigated acres of sandy loam mineral soil.

ROOTING—Rapid establishment in any soil type with less water.

SERVICE—On-Time—Radio Dispatched—Forklift Delivery.

PENNCROSS CREEPING BENT SOD | 75% Sand Base



Quality Supplier of Seed, Fertilizer, Chemicals, and Equipment.

HUBER RANCH SOD NURSERY INC.

Schneider, IN 219/552-0552

- IN 800-553-0552
- IL 800-553-0554

dropped off considerably, from fifth to ninth. Although its total only slipped from 12 to 10, the performance was disappointing relative to California's 22 projects under construction during 1988.

More on the Way

Not only did Florida open the most courses, it also had the most under construction during 1989 — a total of 46, one more than it had in progress by year end in 1988. California was second with 31, a gain of nine over 1988, while third-place South Carolina more than tripled its 1988 total of eight courses. The next largest gain was in Michigan, which had 23 (vs. 13 in 1988), indicating that the state's big surge in course openings will not be a one-shot "flash in the pan."

Although it slipped in course openings, California put the most course plans on the drawing board — 81, slightly more than double its 1988 total Florida's second-place 57 was a slight increase over its 1988 nation-leading 53. As the table below shows, a half dozen of the leading states at least doubled their 1988 in-planning totals.

| Top 12 States in Course Openings | Top 12 States in Ongoing Course Construction | Top 12 States in Course Planning |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Florida - 50 | 1. Florida - 46 | 1. California - 81 |
| 2. Michigan - 19 | 2. California - 31 | 2. Florida - 57 |
| 3. S.Carolina - 14 | 3. S.Carolina - 25 | 3. Virginia - 31 |
| 4. N.Carolina - 14 | 4. Michigan - 23 | 4. Michigan - 27 |
| 5. Illinois - 13 | 5. Illinois - 21 | 4. N.Carolina - 27 |
| 6. Texas - 12 | 6. N.Carolina - 20 | 6. Illinois - 24 |
| 7. Indiana - 11 | 7. Georgia - 18 | 6. Indiana - 24 |
| 8. Georgia - 11 | 8. Ohio - 17 | 8. S.Carolina - 23 |
| 9. Arizona - 10 | 9. Texas - 16 | 8. Pennsylvania - 23 |
| 10. Virginia - 10 | 10. Pennsylvania - 15 | 10. Georgia - 16 |
| 11. Ohio - 10 | 11. Virginia - 12 | 11. Ohio - 15 |
| 12. California - 10 | 12. Indiana - 11 | 12. Texas - 13 |
| All Others — 106 | All Others — 208 | All Others — 242 |
| Total — 290 | Total — 463 | Total — 603 |

We dug into the tall fescue control problem. So now you don't have to.

Introducing LESCO TFC™ Herbicide. The new, easy way to remove unwanted clumps of tall fescue without digging or spot-treating with a non-selective herbicide.

LESCO TFC is the first product to provide selective spot control of tall fescue in Kentucky bluegrass, bentgrass, fine fescue, bahia-grass and bermudagrass, while allowing desirable grass to fill in. This water dispersible granule offers convenience and accuracy.

Order today!

Nationwide • (800) 321-5325
In Ohio • (800) 686-7413



Always read and follow label instructions before using any chemical product.



LESCO, Inc. 20005 Lake Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116
(216) 333-9250

U.S. Golf Course Supply -- The State Summary

(As of December 31, 1989)

| State | Daily Fee | | Municipal | | Private | | Total | |
|--------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|
| | Total | Rank | Total | Rank | Total | Rank | Total | Rank |
| Alabama | 49 | 33 | 34 | 26 | 123 | 17 | 206 | 25 |
| Alaska | 4 | T-49 | 2 | T-49 | 2 | 51 | 8 | T-50 |
| Arizona | 120 | T-16 | 32 | 28 | 79 | 29 | 231 | 22 |
| Arkansas | 46 | 35 | 14 | T-40 | 90 | 25 | 150 | T-30 |
| California | 356 | 6 | 164 | 1 | 315 | 3 | 835 | 2 |
| Colorado | 58 | T-30 | 67 | 9 | 59 | 32 | 184 | 26 |
| Connecticut | 55 | 32 | 34 | T-24 | 81 | 28 | 172 | 28 |
| Delaware | 4 | T-49 | 2 | T-49 | 19 | T-43 | 25 | 49 |
| DC | 1 | 51 | 3 | T-46 | 4 | 50 | 8 | T-50 |
| Florida | 437 | 2 | 93 | 5 | 447 | 1 | 977 | 1 |
| Georgia | 97 | 20 | 40 | T-20 | 177 | 9 | 314 | 15 |
| Hawaii | 40 | 37 | 7 | 44 | 20 | 42 | 67 | 44 |
| Idaho | 42 | 36 | 24 | 34 | 14 | 46 | 80 | 41 |
| Illinois | 258 | 8 | 141 | 3 | 209 | 6 | 608 | 8 |
| Indiana | 213 | 11 | 61 | 11 | 105 | 20 | 379 | 12 |
| Iowa | 137 | 15 | 56 | 12 | 173 | 10 | 366 | 13 |
| Kansas | 66 | 27 | 44 | 19 | 126 | 15 | 236 | 21 |
| Kentucky | 90 | 22 | 31 | 29 | 94 | 22 | 215 | 24 |
| Louisiana | 25 | T-44 | 20 | 35 | 102 | 21 | 147 | 32 |
| Maine | 87 | T-23 | 9 | 43 | 22 | 40 | 118 | 35 |
| Maryland | 26 | 43 | 29 | 30 | 89 | 26 | 144 | 33 |
| Massachusetts | 171 | 13 | 40 | T-20 | 124 | 16 | 335 | 14 |
| Michigan | 493 | 1 | 87 | 7 | 147 | 11 | 727 | 5 |
| Minnesota | 216 | 10 | 81 | 8 | 92 | 24 | 389 | 11 |
| Mississippi | 36 | 38 | 13 | 42 | 93 | 23 | 142 | 34 |
| Missouri | 114 | 18 | 48 | T-15 | 113 | 18 | 275 | 17 |
| Montana | 32 | 40 | 19 | 36 | 25 | 39 | 76 | 43 |
| Nebraska | 62 | T-28 | 36 | T-24 | 73 | 30 | 171 | 29 |
| Nevada | 25 | T-44 | 17 | T-37 | 7 | 49 | 50 | 46 |
| New Hampshire | 78 | 3 | 3 | T-46 | 15 | 45 | 96 | 39 |
| New Jersey | 80 | 25 | 48 | T-15 | 130 | 13 | 258 | T-18 |
| New Mexico | 22 | T-47 | 28 | 31 | 29 | T-37 | 79 | 42 |
| New York | 406 | 4 | 119 | 4 | 268 | 4 | 793 | 3 |
| North Carolina | 228 | 9 | 33 | 27 | 203 | 7 | 464 | 9 |
| North Dakota | 28 | 41 | 45 | 17 | 29 | T-37 | 102 | 38 |
| Ohio | 420 | 3 | 92 | 6 | 191 | 8 | 703 | 6 |
| Oklahoma | 58 | T-30 | 53 | 13 | 62 | 31 | 173 | 27 |
| Oregon | 99 | 19 | 16 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 150 | T-30 |
| Pennsylvania | 368 | 5 | 40 | T-20 | 235 | 5 | 643 | 7 |
| Rhode Island | 24 | 46 | 3 | T-46 | 21 | 41 | 48 | 47 |
| South Carolina | 157 | 14 | 6 | 45 | 128 | 14 | 291 | 16 |
| South Dakota | 33 | 39 | 27 | 32 | 44 | 34 | 104 | 37 |
| Tennessee | 87 | T-23 | 39 | 23 | 112 | 19 | 238 | 20 |
| Texas | 212 | 12 | 147 | 2 | 394 | 2 | 753 | 4 |
| Utah | 27 | 42 | 45 | T-17 | 19 | T-43 | 91 | 40 |
| Vermont | 48 | 34 | 0 | 51 | 11 | 47 | 59 | 45 |
| Virginia | 93 | 21 | 25 | 33 | 140 | 12 | 258 | T-18 |
| Washington | 120 | T-16 | 51 | 14 | 58 | 33 | 229 | 23 |
| West Virginia | 59 | 29 | 17 | T-37 | 32 | 36 | 108 | 36 |
| Wisconsin | 267 | 7 | 65 | 10 | 85 | 27 | 417 | 10 |
| Wyoming | 22 | T-47 | 14 | T-40 | 10 | 48 | 46 | 48 |
| U.S. Totals | 6,296 | | 2,166 | | 5,276 | | 13,738 | |

Source: National Golf Foundation/Golf Facilities in the U.S. (1990 Edition)