

# GCSAA Joins Pesticide Partnership Program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced it will participate in the federal government's new Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Under the program, GCSAA will work in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. food and Drug Administration to develop a strategy that further reduces risks from the use of pesticides on golf courses.

"We are absolutely committed to using responsible management practices that pose little, if any, environmental risk," said GCSAA President Gary Grigg, CGCS. "Through this partnership, we'll be able to work with the leading federal authorities to find new and innovative ways to use pesticides effectively and safely and to minimize any potential harm to people, wildlife and the environment."

The stewardship program is the first under a commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in September 1993. The program commits the agencies to work jointly with pesticide user groups.

In a news release announcing the pesticide initiative, Carol M. Browner, EPA Administrator, said, "I congratulate the companies and grower groups that are joining with us for their forward-thinking approach to environmentally sound pesticide use practices and look forward to seeing others follow their lead."

The EPA's Anne Leslie, who will coordinate GCSAA's strategy development, said, "We are very pleased that GCSAA has joined our Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, and I look forward to working with this professional organization in developing their strategy."

The framework for the strategy emphasizes education, training, research and continued development, and careful use of pest control products that pose risks. According to Leslie, superintendents are already doing many things very well, "GCSAA has already demonstrated a commitment to educate their members in less risky pest control methods by initiating an IPM curriculum as a part of their certification program. GCSAA has also established its own Environmental Stewardship Awards program, which highlights the efforts of individual superintendents to reduce the risk of pesticides to the environment. A large number of superintendents have enthusiastically adopted the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which is an important part of this," she said.

Plans call for the strategy to be developed in 1995 and announced during the Environmental General Session of the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show next February in Orlando, FL.

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Michael Hubbard of Hidden Meadows G.C., Park Forest and his crew were busy with a project designed by Mike Schulz Golf Designs this past summer. They rebuilt all 9 greens, practice green, and all 18 tees on their old "South Course." All of the disturbed areas were resodded to get the course back into play as soon as possible in '96. The mass grading work on the project was done by Jack Uthe, of Premiere Soils.

Verlyn Strellner of Glencoe G.C. has had a Toro LTC irrigation system installed this past summer. It has put in by Halloran & Yauch, Inc. Also installed was one of the first commercial pump stations with variable drive.

Second assistant/Foreman-Needed at Hillcrest Country Club Long Grove, IL. Must have or acquire IL. pesticide license by April 30, 1996. Position opens March 15, with housing available. Contact George Ott at (708)540-5146.

Pete Mirkes of Pheasant Run is looking for a spray technician - foreman. Please call 708-584-6300 ext.7631.



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