

## USGA commits \$3 million to research

The United States Golf Association last month made good on its promise to aid golf's environmental battle by committing \$3 million to research of the subject over the next three years.

Specifically researched will be the effects of fertilizers and pesticides.

The project will be managed by the Green Section Committee with the cooperation of the GCSAA.

The USGA committee which oversees research has been expanded to include recognized authorities from environmental agencies and has been renamed the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee.

The USGA also announced plans to appoint a wildlife ecologist specifically to assist golf courses in developing and preserving wildlife habitat.

"Right now, the game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of pesticides and fertilizers used to maintain golf courses," said USGA President C. Grant Spaeth.

The work will be done by universities throughout the United States, assuring that studies are relevant to a variety of conditions.

Spaeth said the USGA will enter the program with no preconceptions. "We must maintain a position as the honest independent broker," he said.

Studies also will be geared toward the development of alternative and non-chemical pest control, and the influence of golf courses on people and wildlife.

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