

# TURF NEWS

## ROUNDUP

### 1991 Golf Course Supply — Top 10 States

Rank	State	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
1.	Florida	459	100	473	1,032
2.	California	374	178	310	862
3.	New York	400	119	260	779
4.	Michigan	525	84	150	760
5.	Texas	234	156	359	749
6.	Ohio	425	96	192	713
7.	Pennsylvania	374	39	232	645
8.	Illinois	257	157	201	615
9.	North Carolina	257	35	192	484
10.	Wisconsin	276	70	77	423
	<b>Nationwide</b>	<b>6,764</b>	<b>2,259</b>	<b>5,113</b>	<b>14,136</b>

Source: National Golf Foundation

#### ALSO

The GCSAA is adding a new Pacific Rim office and announcing a conference and trade show for the area in 1993 ..... 8

Corporate rebates will be made to GCSAA Scholarship & Research by Lebanon Turf Products for each bag of a Country Club fertilizer sold through Dec. 31, 1993 ..... 10

The American Society of Golf Course Architects is urging developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction phase on new courses. .... 14

#### TURF QUIZ

##### ANSWER

Hailstone damage on all 18 greens. Golf-ball-size hailstones created a great deal of damage.

After the storm, clean-up and repairs on top-dressings finally made greens playable again.

## Florida leads nation in new golf course openings but trend unlikely to continue

Florida led the nation in new course openings in 1991 for the seventh consecutive year, according to the National Golf Foundation. But the string is likely to end.

With 35 courses added to the state's inventory last year, Florida widened its lead over California as the state with the most golf courses: 1,032 to 862. California opened 21 new courses last year.

Michigan is likely to capture top honors for 1992, however. According to the NGF, 45 courses are under construction in the Great Lakes state while Florida, which led the nation in this category in 1989 and slipped to third in 1990, dropped into a tie for seventh with Alabama and Texas in 1991. Each state had 24 courses under construction at the end of the year.

Nationally, golf course construction reached a 20-year high-water mark as 351 new layouts opened for play. That's the highest total since 1971, when 371 came on line and comes close to the goal of opening a golf course a day set at the NGF's Golf Summit 1986 at Westchester CC in Rye, N.Y. The totals for 1989 and 1990 were 289 and 290, respectively. The nation had been averaging 150 per year over the previous decade.

These and other statistical insights are contained in the 1992 edition of the NGF's annual *Golf Facilities in the U.S.* report which examines the nation's golf course supply as of Dec. 31.

While 351 openings are certainly good for the industry, NGF officials say this level of activity will be difficult to maintain in light of current development conditions, including:

- ◆ High cost of land.
- ◆ Decline of the real estate market and its impact on the number of future golf courses that will be real-estate related.
- ◆ Availability of financing that does not require a high percentage of equity participation by the borrower.
- ◆ High cost of meeting environmental regulations.

NGF research shows that it takes an average of three years for most golf course development projects to move from conception to completion.

"I seriously question whether we can sustain this level of golf course development activity throughout this decade," says Joe Bedit, NGF president. "Current conditions being what they are, I'd say a rate of 250 a year seems more likely."

The rate probably won't drop all in one year, however. NGF analysts predict that more than 300 courses will open in 1992 because 450 courses have been scheduled to open this year and, historically, about 65 percent of the courses scheduled to open actually do so.

But the number of courses in the planning stages is down 13 percent from 1990 (781 to 681),



so a further drop in openings appears likely.

Richard Norton, NGF's vice president of golf course development, also points to the current decline in the number of golf course development projects that are real estate-related.

"Three to four years ago, upwards of 50 percent of all golf course construction was associated with new housing," he said. "It was simply a reflection of the number of developers who were using golf courses to increase the value of their homesites."

At the end of 1991, however, only 34 percent of the 583 courses under construction — and only 33 percent of those that opened — were related to real estate.

Among other findings in this year's report:

- ◆ The total number of courses in the U.S. stands at 14,136 — the highest number ever.

- ◆ Many new courses have been opened or are being planned and built in the NGF's "Hot Spots" — metro areas where conditions seemed especially favorable for golf course development.

- ◆ Golf in the U.S. remains a predominately public game: 64 percent of the nation's total of 14,136 are public courses as are nearly 80 percent of the 351 that opened last year.

*Golf Facilities in the U.S.* is one of two major baseline research studies which the NGF conducts annually. The other is *Golf Participation in the U.S.*, which was scheduled to be released as *The Florida Green* went to press.

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