

GCSAA's Environmental Study Goes to Phase Four

GCSAA has announced that beginning in January 2008 it will conduct a national survey of golf courses focusing on pesticide use.

The survey is part of a multi-year, first-of-its-kind project being undertaken by GCSAA that will evaluate the environmental performance of golf courses. To date, GCSAA member and non-member superintendents have participated in three phases of the survey focusing on the physical profile of a golf facility; water use and conservation; and nutrient (fertilizer) use. The last phase of the survey to be issued in 2009 will examine maintenance practices on golf courses. The entire data set will establish a baseline for comparison when the surveys are replicated in the future.

The pesticide survey will be

conducted through March 15. As in the past, those superintendents with an e-mail address registered with GCSAA will receive an invitation to participate online. The others will be contacted via regular mail with a hard-copy survey or instructions on how to complete it online. Input will be sought on product use and integrated plant management programs. Funding for the first four phases have come from The Environmental Institute for Golf, thanks in part to a grant from The Toro Foundation.

"We are appreciative of the participation we have received in the first three phases," GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D., said. "This survey will be slightly more entailed, so I encourage superintendents to organize their 2007 records before they begin the process. This is an extremely important project, one which will benefit GCSAA, its members and the game. I cannot stress

how important it is for superintendents to participate."

The online survey has been constructed in a manner so that members can complete it in stages rather than in one setting. Participants will need to remember a password they have created in order to return to the survey. GCSAA members completing the survey will receive .25 service points and all participants will be registered in drawings for various prizes. A VISA gift card of \$250 will be awarded to one individual in each of the seven agronomic regions. A grand prize of a flat panel, LCD, HD television will be awarded as well.

The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is designed to collect information that will allow superintendents and other facility personnel to become better managers, help them operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such



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Aloysia virgata

Common Name: Almond Bush

Zones: North, Central & South



Mature Height and Spread: Generally 6 x 8-ft. mounding shrub

Classification: Small Tree or Large Shrub

Landscape Use: Specimen and butterfly attractor

Characteristics: This fragrant, vigorous, drought-tolerant, upright-growing tree/shrub form South America produces finger-like spiked clusters of small, white almond-scented flowers on slightly weeping branches. With an extended bloom period this shrub can be pruned up to form a tree. For a full plant with denser growth, prune between bloom cycles. In North Florida this plant may die down and quickly regrows as a tall shrub.

Propagation: By cuttings from stem or semi-hardwood

information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices on the golf course. Results from each phase will first appear in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, then in *Golf Course Management*, the association's monthly publication, then will be widely distributed.

Two Florida Turf Students Get GCSAA Scholarships

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded scholarship money to 16 college students as part of the GCSAA Scholars Program administered by GCSAA's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf. Jonathan Chase Webb (University of Florida) and Nathaniel Watkin (Lake City Community College) each were awarded stipends ranging from \$1,250 to \$2,500.

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