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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Courses breaking hazwaste law

BY MARK LESLIE

Most golf courses today are breaking the law.

Only 45 percent of the Club Managers Association of America members questioned in a poll say their clubs have a hazard communication program, and an industry ex-

pert feels even that is a high figure.

A poll conducted by Public Opinion Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and CMAA's Governmental Affairs Department found that only 56 percent of the managers polled had even heard about the law requiring a hazard communication program.

The law, which originally targeted heavy industry and manufacturing, was expanded to cover golf courses among other businesses in May 1988.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports that lack of a

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This 18th hole displays a portion of the beauty of New England Country Club in Bellingham, Mass., designed by Hale Irwin and developed by Forge Development Corp. For more on this and other new courses, see pages 10 and 11.

Beditz leads NGF into future

BY BOB DRUM

The National Golf Foundation is "its strongest in history," says Dr. Joseph F. Beditz, its new president and chief operating officer. "I'm inheriting a healthy club and want to keep it up and keep improving."

Beditz, 38, who had been in the job in an acting status since David B. Hueber resigned in January, has high hopes since being handed the post permanently after a May 2 NGF board meeting.

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Drought woes plague courses

BY KATHY BISSELL

The drought situation continues to affect golf courses in all parts of the country.

Most severely hit are areas of Northern California, according to Don Hoos, director of agronomy for Landmark Land Co., Inc., which has 22 courses from California to Florida.

"In Carmel and Monterey the underground aquifer is not as good as in some areas. There has already been a 20-percent reduction request for industrial users, which includes golf courses, hotels and resorts," Hoos explained. "They can achieve 20 percent by being more careful with irrigation, maintaining minimum levels for grass, not watering roughs. The greens,

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Oregon seed law vote soon

A decision is expected in mid-June on a proposed field-burning law in Oregon that may endanger the entire supply of U.S.-produced cool-season golf course grasses.

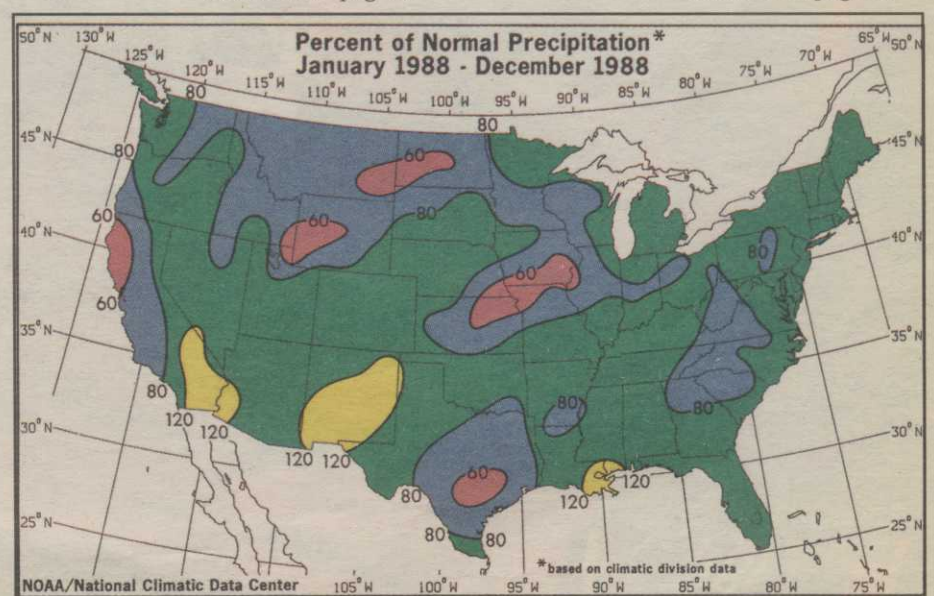
Observers close to the Oregon state Legislature say the seed industry has enough support in the House to kill any bill that would be too damaging to the 70 seed companies and 800 farmers who grow seed in the state.

But Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission, is not taking anything or anyone for granted.

"Things have to cook and take their time" in the legislative process, he said. "We're proceeding through the process but we won't know anything for sure until the final vote on the floor."

Another industry expert said the state Senate in mid-May was taking a harsh stand that would have cut the number of acres that could be burned in the state from 250,000 to 150,000 this fall, then to 100,000 acres in 1990, and 50,000 in 1991 and thereafter. The Senate at that time supported raising the fee farmers pay per acre burned from the current \$3.50 to \$20 or \$25 an acre in 1992. A total of 345,000 acres produces grass seed in the state.

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This map from the National Climatic Data Center, NOAA shows the percent of normal precipitation around the United States for the entire year of 1989.