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# GOLF COURSE NEWS

**SPECIAL LISTINGS**  
Architects and Builders  
Pages 16, 17 and 20

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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## INSIDE

**16 FINANCES** and environment obstacles

**16 ARCHITECTS** top 200

**20 BUILDERS** of the United States

### Course openings in 1990 through June 30

	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
Opened as new facilities	54	16	23	93
Added to existing facilities	19	4	13	36
<b>Total courses</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>129</b>

*Source: NGF*

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## Florida spearheads change

### Summit brings all sides together

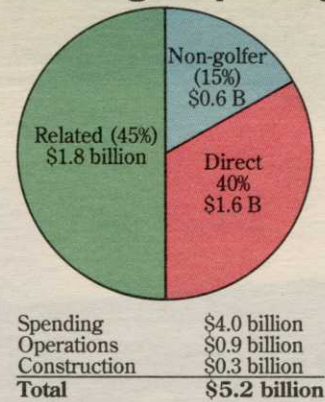
BY KIT BRADSHAW

Golf in Florida is a cornucopia, pouring \$5.2 billion annually not only into the golf industry, but into resorts, restaurants, agriculture, real estate, tourism, retail sales and services.

But the economic impact of golf as a business and the environmental benefit of golf courses must be recognized and understood by the public, legislators and governmental regulators.

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### Florida golf spending



### Will other states follow the lead?

BY MARK LESLIE

In the wake of Florida's successful golf summit and with Golf Summit 90 set for Nov. 12-13, states where golf is big business may follow suit by adding lobbying arms and bringing together the industry and government agencies.

Summits like Florida's are "very important because golf is not well coordinated in most states," said Gerald Faubel of Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club.

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## Pebble Beach course facelift going full tilt

BY FRANK POLLARD

Plagued by drought and turf problems, Pebble Beach Co. on California's Monterey Peninsula faces an aggressive renovation program at the hands of its new owners.

Prior to the billion-dollar sale of Pebble Beach Co. to Ben Hogan Properties, Inc., officials at the facility had started an extensive program to restore Pebble Beach Golf Links to its original design. At the

same time, though plagued by drought, Pebble Beach was undertaking a program of additional course changes to meet the stringent requirements of the U.S. Golf Association for the U.S. Open, scheduled there in June 1992.

The primary challenge was eradicating Kikuyugrass and all noxious weeds from the tees, aprons, collars, fairways and rough.

*Continued on page 15*

## Calif. supers in suspense

BY PETER BLAIS

Californians will vote this month on two ballot questions dealing with pesticides that could greatly affect how golf course superintendents do their job.

Proposition 128, commonly called the Big Green initiative, would ban 70 to 80 percent of common pesticides used in agriculture, many of which

*Continued on page 12*

## Flood hits Augusta National and others

BY MARK LESLIE

Augusta National Golf Club lost its entire 11th green complex, Augusta Country Club faced washed-out riprap and one-quarter inch of silt on its 8th green, and other courses in Georgia and South Carolina dealt with their own problems after receiving as much as 15

inches of rain Oct. 10-12.

Tropical storms Klaus, Lily and Marco converged in a deluge creating the equivalent of 50-year floods in some areas.

Many courses simply watched the heavens open for two days and waited as the water soaked into the ground.

Others weren't so lucky.

Augusta National superintendent Marsh Benson had to contend with a complete washout of the 11th green and retaining walls, a washed-out 13th members' tee, a flooded 12th green and damaged 13th green as Rae's Creek

*Continued on page 28*



The 13th hole at Iowa Shoreline Golf Course shows how well "derelict land" can be turned into green space. Architect Patrick Wyss of Rapid City, S.D., designed the course in Carter Lake, Iowa. For more on new courses, see page 11.



## Calif. vote puts golf on the line

Continued from page 1

are also used on golf courses.

"It's a real concern that we'd be unable to maintain golf courses without these products," said Raymond Davies, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Southern California. "The most frustrating thing is that there was no science involved in putting the initiative together. It is based on fear rather than fact.

"Superintendents think of pesticides as medicine for plants and give them appropriate dosages. This initiative ignores dosages, no matter how safe, and stresses any link that's ever been made between a pesticide and cancer. The problem

**'CAREFUL would be preferable. It works in a more gradual manner to reduce pesticides.'**

— D.J. Pakkala

is, people aren't educated about the value of pesticides and are afraid of cancer."

The second ballot question, the agriculture-backed CAREFUL initiative, calls for more government-sponsored research and education rather than an immediate ban on many pesticides.

"CAREFUL does some good things," said Davies. "If you're concerned that there isn't enough

testing being done, this is a reasonable next step."

In cases where the initiatives conflict, a stipulation in CAREFUL would give precedence to the initiative that receives the most votes. CAREFUL seems to have more support than Big Green, according to Davies and California GCSA President D.J. Pakkala of Hi-Lo Desert International Golf Partners, Inc.

"Of the two, CAREFUL would be preferable," Pakkala said. "It works in a more gradual manner to reduce pesticides. Big Green applies a broader brush stroke that just wipes everything out."

Among the common golf course

chemicals Big Green would eliminate over the next decade, Pakkala said, are benomyl, chlorothalonil, mancozeb, maneb, thiophanate methyl and bromoxynil.

"It would do away with things we use a lot," said the California GCSA president. "There are already many pesticides labeled elsewhere we can't use here. This just compounds the problems we're already dealing with. It definitely creates a hardship for superintendents trying to run their courses."

For example, Davies said his home course, Virginia Country Club

in Long Beach, is largely planted in poa annua. Some products that are available to control poa pests in other states aren't available in California because of its already tough licensing laws.

"If they take away the pesticides we use to keep poa growing, it's going to be difficult," Davies said. "We might have to decide to try replanting in hybrid Bermuda or making a heroic effort at growing bentgrass. Or we might have to raise cutting heights."

"Insects aren't generally a big problem in Southern California. But if you don't control them on poa, you end up with an unplayable surface."

One of the main differences between the two initiatives involves control.

Davies said CAREFUL would leave implementation in the hands of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, a state agency dedicated to safe food with minimal environmental risk.

Big Green, he added, would give that power to the Department of Health Services, which is committed to the environmentalists' goal of zero tolerance for chemicals linked in any way, regardless of dosages, to cancer.

"Giving environmentalists control of pesticide use through the Department of Health Services may be the biggest impact of Big Green," Davies said.

Passage of Big Green would cost the state government \$3 billion the first year, Davies said.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dianne Feinstein has endorsed Big Green. Republican hopeful Pete Wilson has not backed one initiative or the other.

"I've heard from a number of people that CAREFUL is gaining strength and 128 (Big Green) isn't looking as good. We'll see," said Pakkala.

Whatever happens, it's obvious changes are on the way, according to William Griffith, president of the GCSA of Central California.

"We'll have to re-do our thinking on how to maintain a golf course," Griffith said. "We've gotten lazy over the years, applying broad spectrum chemicals at higher rates to kill pests."

"Now we've got to go back to school and come up with alternatives, maybe some that worked before all these pesticides were available."

"We can solve the problems. But it's going to be more difficult and more expensive. The golfer has gotten spoiled by perfect conditions. Now that they're taking the tools out of our hands, he'll have to put up with less-than-perfect conditions. Or he may have to live with higher green fees to pay for the alternatives."

Added Davies: "We have some real picky customers who are used to some of the best courses in the world here in California. If the initiative passes and we lose a considerable amount of turf, they're going to be frustrated."

## GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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