

EPA officials urge environmentally 'user-friendly' projects

ARLINGTON, Va. — A senior U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official said America's golf industry must work with environmental authorities to seek "win-win solutions" that will ensure the game's growth is not inhibited by concerns about development, pesticides and water usage.

Lewis Crampton, EPA associate administrator for communications and public affairs, told a group of golf industry officials here on June 24 that "golf is doing a number of positive things, (but) if the industry is going to continue to grow, golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places."

He cited cooperative efforts by the EPA with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, including public education campaigns and efforts to reduce pesticide usage, as evidence that golf is "on the right course."

GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli said, "It's only natural that golf course superintendents be leaders in environmental stewardship."

He noted that the association has worked for years to ensure that the public and government understand how golf courses are managed to prevent negative effects on the environment.

Larry Turner, project manager for the EPA's endangered species program, outlined the final draft of the long-delayed project. It will rely on county bulletins that feature maps showing areas where an endangered species is present and outline restrictions on chemical use in and around these areas. Chemical labels will instruct applicators to consult the county bulletins and abide by their restrictions.

Turner said a number of states have begun "state-initiated" plans to localize the endangered species regulatory process. He said although EPA can not turn over complete authority to the states, it has permitted them to enter into "landowners agreements" with sites like golf courses.

Son-in-law buys Westwood GC in auction sale

WOODBURY, N.J. — For more than 30 years, Westwood Golf Club was under popular assault by golfers in the suburban Philadelphia and southern New Jersey areas.

The 18-hole, 120-acre course recently went under the auctioneer's hammer. It was sold for \$3.75 million to Ken Vogt of this city. Vogt is married to the daughter of the original owner.

Going the auction route for such a transaction no longer is unique. A spokesman for Philadelphia-based Traiman, which claims to be America's foremost real-estate auction organization, said it was the eighth golf course they've awarded to the person with the highest dollar scorecard.

Kathy Kronopolus of the EPA's office of pesticide programs said prevention of ground water contamination is emphasized because remediation (treatment and cleanup of ground water) is much more expensive.

"The prevention policy includes promoting the use of 'safer' chemicals, non-chemical pest control alternatives and environmentally sound agricultural practices," Kronopolus said.

She added that the EPA will help states develop strategic management plans to accomplish these and

other ground water protection goals, but cautioned that "the bottom line is that the user will continue to be responsible for pesticides in the field."

Charles T. Passios, course superintendent at Hyannisport (Mass.) Country Club, pointed to a number of ways that golf and golf course superintendents have developed and implemented strategic plans to achieve ground water protection.

"I think golf's willingness to participate in research projects like the Cape Cod Study (on ground water

and develop integrated pest management programs shows that superintendents want to do the right thing. The results reflect a good job in managing pesticide use," he said.

Passios said, "Incorporating wetlands into the design of golf courses is one answer to the wetlands problem. However, clarifying the definition of what is or isn't a wetland would greatly assist in the protection of true wetland areas."

Congressman Jimmy Hayes (D-La), sponsor of House Resolution 1330, the new wetlands bill, blasted existing wetlands regulations and

the new delineation manual.

"Something as important as a national wetlands policy should not be written by a half-dozen people without public debate as a draft (amendment) to a 20-year-old water bill," said Hayes.

The present wetlands policy, according to Hayes, is confusing, unclear and might not let landowners know for years whether they are in violation of a wetlands law.

Under the Hayes bill, value and functional use would determine which of three classifications a wetland site would fall under.

Most Re Start Und

You already know that aeration is a must for healthy greens.

But you may not know there's a new aerator that provides significant agronomic benefits without disturbing the surface. Or even disrupting play.

Meet Toro's revolutionary HydroJect™ 3000. The only aerator that injects water at high velocity to penetrate compacted soils.

Like most revolutions, this one started underground. With a need for deeper penetration than the normal 3" by conventional core aerators. We designed the HydroJect 3000 to penetrate 4" to 6", and beyond 20" if needed. A decided coup for



No disturbed turf. No disrupted play.



Most core aerators penetrate only 3" deep.

you. And it breaks through compactive layers for better infiltration.