

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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The 195-yard 11th hole at Colonial Williamsburg's Golden Horseshoe Green Course, designed by Rees Jones, features an amphitheater green nestled above a sharp slope to a pond in front. For more on new courses, see pages 23-26.

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# Ice, wind and fire

## Startling snowstorm buries Midwest

By Peter Blais

The Halloween snowstorm that blanketed the upper Midwest horrified superintendents, forcing many to close courses early and leaving them shaking their heads for failing to blow out irrigation systems or make chemical and fertilizer applications earlier than usual.

Originally forecast to dump less than four to six inches of snow, the early-season storm left 28 inches of the white stuff in Minneapolis and as much as 40 inches farther north near Duluth, Minn., and Superior, Wis. That's close to half the average yearly snowfall in all three areas.

Southern Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri received a mixture of snow and freezing rain, resulting in tree damage, power outages and delayed chemical and fertilizer applications.

"It was the largest single recorded snowfall here in the last 100 years," reported superintendent David Kohlbr of the 37.9 inches deposited on his Donald Ross-designed Northland Country Club in Duluth.

Kohlbr was fortunate. He blew out his irrigation system Oct. 1 and was just applying the last snow mold application to the final tee as the snow began falling around 1 p.m. on Oct. 31.

"My major concern was that the ground wasn't frozen yet," he added. "Snow mold could thrive in that stuff and we could have some real problems, especially on the fairways, next spring."

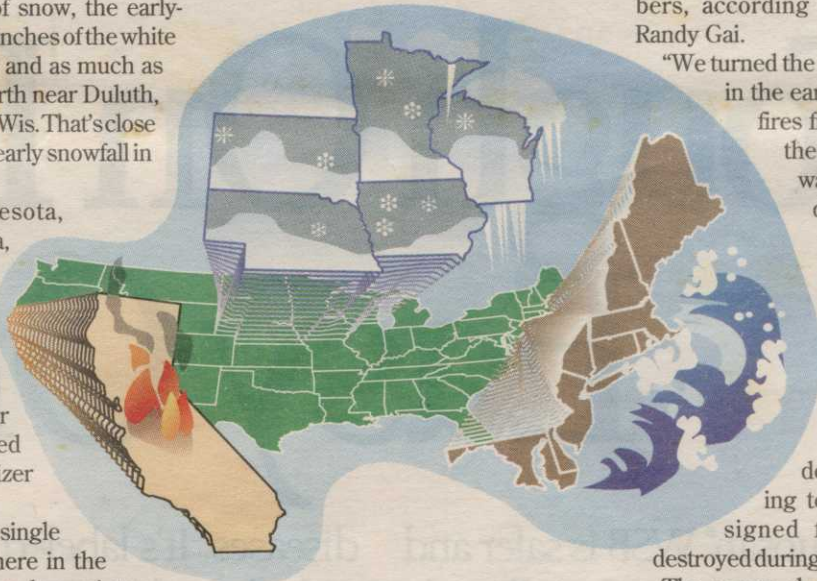
Kohlbr also feared crown dehydra

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## Hurricane slashes, floods East Coast

By Mark Leslie

Fronted by ferocious winds and coinciding with high tide, Hurricane Grace blasted the East Coast from Maryland to Maine on Oct. 30, leaving some areas looking like a war zone — complete with National Guard troops. Golf courses built for beauty along the coastline paid the price for that location in a frighten-



ing few hours that brought chaos from which it took a week to recover.

Driving from east to west, the storm hit Maine and Massachusetts, then turned south, pounding the shoreline with 15-foot waves and causing heavier damage than Hurricane Bob, which had struck Aug. 19.

"It was scary," said Brian Cowan, superintendent at Eastward Ho Country Club in Harwich, Mass., on the outer edge of Cape Cod. He described 78 miles-per-hour winds and massive waves that washed 14 cottages and a half-dozen

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## Runaway blaze terrorizes Oakland area

By Peter Blais

OAKLAND, Calif. — One golf course suffered major damage and several others barely escaped the intense flames that engulfed the hills west of the city in late October.

The 12th green, 14th tee and several fairways at Claremont Country Club were severely burned by falling embers, according to superintendent Randy Gai.

"We turned the irrigation system on in the early afternoon to stop fires from springing up in the more outlying fairways. It looks like a disease outbreak where the cinders landed. We'll have to re-sod some spots," Gai said.

At least 300 trees along the course and another eight to 10 acres of wilderness area belonging to the Jim Smith-designed facility were also destroyed during the blaze, Gai added.

The course closed from Oct. 22-28, re-opening the front nine on the 28th and the back nine a day later. No temporary greens or tees were needed.

Gai's crew re-seeded and re-sodded the damaged turf areas and removed 200 trees, including many stately redwoods and cypress, while the course was closed.

"We'll leave some of the scarred trees in and see what happens. But I expect we'll lose at least 300," the superintendent said.

The cost, mostly labor, to remove burned trees and repair damaged turf could run as much as \$200,000, Gai

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## EPA puts pesticide laws in states' hands

From staff reports

The federal government will soon give more responsibility to the states to manage pesticides that could contaminate ground water.

The Environmental Protection Agency's recently

released Pesticides and Ground Water Strategy gives states a major role tailoring programs to meet local conditions to avoid adverse effects on human health and the environment.

"Current findings do not

indicate a public health problem," noted EPA De-puty Administrator Henry Habicht. "However, monitoring studies, including EPA's National Pesticide Survey of Drinking Water

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# EPA puts pesticide authority on states' shoulders

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Wells released last November, have shown that pesticide residues are occurring in some public and private wells in various locations across the country.

"While the well-water survey found pesticide residues in only 10 percent of the wells tested, and less than one percent exceeded health levels, the fact that residues are appearing makes it essential to focus on preventive approaches to minimize threats to ground water resources associated with pesticide

use."

The strategy document is not a regulatory measure. It describes how EPA intends to regulate some pesticides in the future.

If the agency determines that a particular pesticide has or is likely to contaminate vulnerable ground water as a result of normal use, and that labeling and other national-level restrictions do not ensure adequate protection, EPA may require individual State Management Plans as a condition of continued use of that pesticide.

*'It will be interesting to see the thresholds EPA will use to move a pesticide from general to restricted use.'*

— Allen James

State Management Plans are an alternative to cancellation. Since risks to ground water are the result of localized conditions, national

cancellation may not be necessary if an EPA-approved management plan is followed.

EPA's determination that State Management Plans are needed for one or more pesticides is a formal regulatory decision. That means there is opportunity for public comment and certain appeal rights for pesticide registrants before a decision is final.

EPA expects to propose some pesticides for the State Management Plan approach in 1992. A final determination requiring State

Management Plans for those pesticides could take about two years.

While applauding EPA efforts at federal-state cooperation, how the EPA will determine what pesticides would require State Management Plans concerns Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, a pesticide manufacturer and distributor trade association.

"The criteria has been detection. But that isn't the same as contamination," James said. "It will be interesting to see the thresholds EPA will use to move a pesticide from general to restricted use.

"There are products used on golf courses that have been detected in ground water. Any detected in the future could end up on a restricted-use list. It is possible a restricted-use product could only be applied by a licensed applicator, not a regular member of a maintenance crew.

"That is why it concerns us whether the criteria is potential leachability, detection or actual contamination. If it is just detection or leachability, then we have problems. It could take very little leaching potential to move a product to a restricted-use list."

According to the strategy, State Management Plans would focus on vulnerable areas of the state and may choose from a wide variety of measures including pesticide education for users, modified application practices, use restrictions or prohibitions in specific places, and best management practices to reduce risks of ground water contamination.

"A State Management Plan should reflect the degree of potential risk in a state, which is a function of both the degree to which a problem pesticide is used, and the vulnerability of ground water in the area," Habicht said.

EPA will approve individual state plans and exercise periodic oversight to ensure they are effective.

EPA will also encourage non-regulatory approaches to ground water protection including development of safer chemical and non-chemical pesticide alternatives and transfer of new technologies in partnership with other federal and state agencies.

EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Geological Survey will work together in supplying states with technical assistance and guidance on activities such as data interpretation, monitoring, ground water vulnerability mapping and applying best management practices.

The pesticide strategy was developed with extensive public participation by state agencies of health, agriculture and environmental protection, as well as the pesticide industry, environmental groups and farm organizations.

The general approach of state responsibility for designing individual management plans has broad support, according to EPA officials.



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