

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

## USGA adds quality control

Turf Renovation and Construction Services will serve developers, owners. ....3

## Michigan summit

Industry, government experts put issues into perspective .....4

## GCSAA study

Superintendents association survey to answer pesticide and fertilizer use questions for scientists .....18



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.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

Flood washouts challenge Sugarloaf, Jones .....13  
Paul Dermott — Canada's best in 1991 .....14  
Faubel proves prevention theory versus moths ....17

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Canadians build in face of recession .....23  
Johnston's touch traditional at Southernness .....23  
Golf Asia '92 increases booking .....26

### COURSE MANAGEMENT

Women's role growing in golf .....27  
Penn State initiates management course .....27  
Directors, greens chairman program offered .....27

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Ransomes shakeup claims presidents' jobs .....31  
Pennington Enterprises reorganizes .....31  
Irrigation Association names Putnam director .....31

# 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."

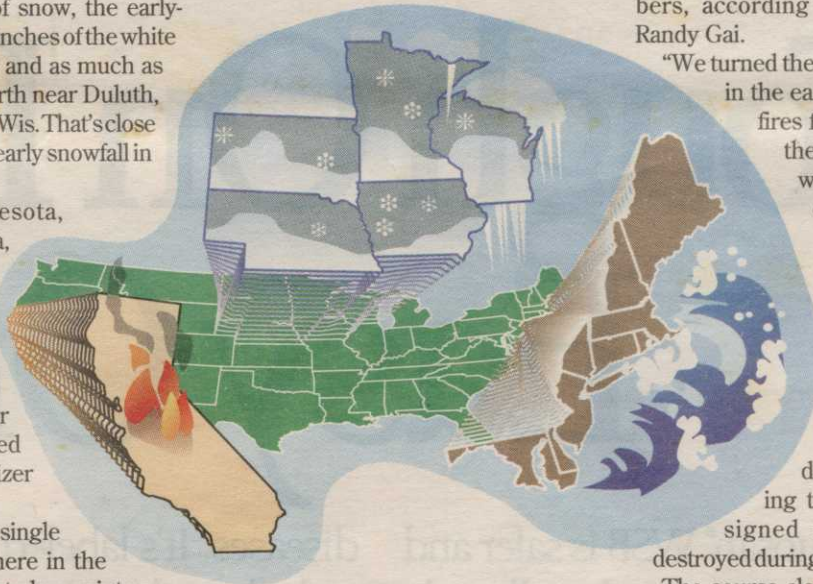
Kohlbr also feared crown dehydra

Continued on page 16

## 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

Continued on page 15

## 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

Continued on page 15



## 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

Continued on page 9