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GOLF COURSE NEWS

PULL-OUT SECTION
Int'l Golf Course Conference and Show
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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 1991

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USGA awards millions in research project grants

By Peter Blais

Pesticide and nutrient fate along with alternative pest management are the primary focus of the 15 research grants the United States Golf Association has decided to fund as part of its most ambitious research effort ever.

Contracts potentially worth a total of almost \$2.8 million over the next three years will soon be offered to 15 colleges and universities, said USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Some schools are involved in more than one project.

Certain projects, especially those involving pesticide and nutrient fate, will take three years to complete, he added. Some could continue farther into the future.

Requests for bid for another \$300,000 in research money dealing with golf

course benefits will be made this winter. The USGA's Environmental Research Committee will select the successful proposals at its March meeting, Snow said.

The research committee met in early December. "It
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Japanese continue investments

By GCN staff

Landmark Land Co.'s anticipated sale of the bulk of its golf and resort assets for approximately \$739 million is just the latest of dozens of

Japanese golf facility acquisitions in the United States that have put that country's financiers at the forefront of U.S. golf ownership.

According to Mead Ven-

tures, Inc., of Phoenix, Ariz., which provides information on international business, 120 golf course developments totaling about 160 courses in the United States

were owned wholly or partly by Japanese companies or their U.S. subsidiaries before the Landmark purchase.

The Mead total includes
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GROWTH OF COURSE TYPES IN U.S.

Year	Municipal	Daily Fee	Private
1983	2032	5915	5137
1984	2056	5961	5164
1985	2090	5968	5196
1986	2098	6004	5251
1987	2122	6025	5289
1988	2135	6203	5288
1989	2166	6296	5276

See related page 1 story on municipal courses.
Source: NGF

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The River Islands Club course, designed by Arthur Hills, plays on both sides of the French Broad River and on two islands in between. It opens for play this spring. For more information on golf course development see pages 29-33.

Communities finding munis money-makers

By Bob Seligman

A growing number of communities are building municipal golf courses to earn money and provide recreation for their residents.

According to Angelo Palermo, vice president of golf course development for the National Golf Foundation, 125 municipal courses were in planning last Dec. 1, as

opposed to 85 at the end of 1989.

Seventy-two municipal courses were under construction by Dec. 1, 1990, as opposed to 63 at the end of

1989. Thirty-six new municipal courses had opened in 1990 by last Dec. 1, one more than opened in all of 1989.

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Beard urges: Speak out on benefits

By Peter Blais

Dr. James Beard exhorted superintendents and others at December's Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show to speak out on the "unfounded" attacks against the turfgrass industry.

Although turf is beneficial in many ways, it is coming under severe pressure at local, state and national levels by special interest groups ranging from tree and ornamental organizations to water conservation interests to anti-

pollution forces. "Trees, shrubs and turf go together," Beard said. "We've got enough problems from other groups without the tree and shrub people coming out against turf. It
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USGA announces research it will finance

Continued from page 1

was a very difficult process choosing the final projects," said Snow, the committee chairman. "We started with 83 proposals and whittled that down to 23 before selecting the final ones.

"We spent two days looking at the final proposals. (Green Section Research Director) Mike Kenna plastered big sheets about each project along the walls. We kept going around and around the room.

"We tried for geographical diversity, especially in the pesticide and nutrient fate projects, since conditions can vary so much around the country."

The USGA chose not to release the amounts awarded to individual projects while contracts are being negotiated.

PESTICIDE AND NUTRIENT FATE STUDIES

Eight pesticide and nutrient fate projects are being funded. The project titles and schools involved are:

- Pesticide and Fertilizer Fate in Turfgrasses Managed Under Golf Course Conditions in the Midwestern Region — University of Nebraska, Iowa State University and Kansas State University.

- Groundwater Contamination Potential of Pesticides and Fertilizers Used on the Golf Course — Michigan State University.

- Mass Balance Assessment of Pesticides Applied to Golf Turf — Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University and University of Massachusetts.

- Fate of Pesticides and Fertilizers in a Turfgrass Environment — University of California, Riverside.

- Mobility and Persistence of Turfgrass Pesticides in a USGA green — University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale.

- Evaluation of the Potential Movement of Pesticides Following Application to Golf Courses — University of Georgia.

- Quantification and Fate of Nitrogen from Amended and Trafficked Sand Putting Green/Tee Profiles — Washington State University.

- Effect of Salinity on Nitrate Leaching From Turfgrass — University of Nevada,

Reno.

ALTERNATIVE PEST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Six alternative pest management projects will be offered contracts. They are:

- Potential for Physiological Management of Symptom Expression by Turfgrasses Infected by *Bipolaris Sorokiniana* — Iowa State University.

- Biological Control of Golf Course Turf Pests: Isolation and Evaluation of Nematode and Bacterial Pathogens — U.S. Department of Agriculture in Wooster, Ohio, Rutgers University and University of California at Davis.

- Microbial Basis of Disease Suppression

'We tried for geographical diversity, especially in the pesticide and nutrient fate projects.'

— Jim Snow

USGA Green Section

- in Composts Applied to Golf Course Turf — Cornell.

- Investigation of Turf Disease Decline for Potential Development of Biological Control Methods — Univ. of Calif., Riverside.

- Pathogenicity and Biological Control of

Gaeumannomyces-like Fungi — Univ. of Fla., Ft. Lauderdale.

- Damage Thresholds, Risk Assessment and Environmentally Compatible Management Tactics for White Grub Pests of Turfgrass — University of Kentucky.

The one project in the Golf Course Benefit category awarded funding in December was a Texas A&M University study entitled "Quantification and Validation of the Beneficial Contributions of Turfgrasses to Our Environment and Quality of Life."

"A couple of projects were funded for one year. They could get more funding if the preliminary results show promise," Snow said.

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