

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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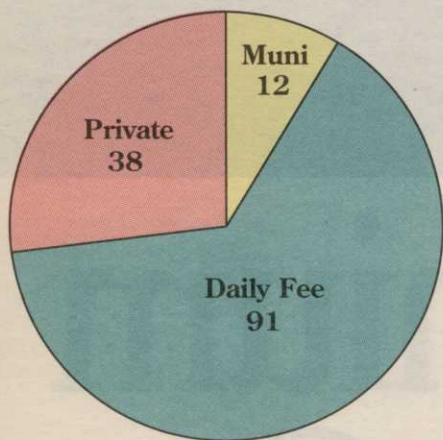
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Types of university-affiliated golf courses in the United States. Total = 141 Source: NGF

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USGA promises another \$4.1M

Executive Committee promises continued support through 1997

By Mark Leslie

The U.S. Golf Association Executive Committee has approved another \$4.15 million in funding for research projects.

Revealing the decision made on June 10, USGA Green Section National Di-

rector Jim Snow said he was excited at the committee's high level of support for the research program.

The committee this winter allotted \$3.8 million to 18 research projects through 1997. That will complete the 10-year program that began in 1983.

This new infusion of funds will carry research from 1993 to 1997, Snow said.

Accomplishments so far have consisted mostly of findings that set the foundation for further studies, Snow

said. He cited the Turfgrass Information File at Michigan State University, which "is a tremendous resource for the entire industry and is just now catching on"; development of NuMex Sahara bentgrass and 609 buffalograss; and investigation of breeding improvements such as screening for salt.

"These are things you can't visually see, but that were important research," he said. "We're at the point now where

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The University of Wisconsin has joined the growing ranks of universities with affiliated golf courses. This is a view of its new Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course, which officially opens in July. See a story on university courses on page 33.

Winter whacks Washington courses with winter kill

By Bob Spiwak

Yoyo-like winter temperatures caused winter kill that devastated greens on northern Washington State courses, costing tens of thousands of dollars in repair bills and lost revenues.

The Spokane area, which boasts some of the nation's best municipal courses, was hit the hardest. Indian Canyon, perennially listed among the

top U.S. venues, counted at least half its greens this spring as "browns." And it was not alone.

In fact, courses that fared best had newly planted bentgrass, or were blanketed with snow throughout the winter. Most severely damaged were courses with incursions of poa annua (annual bluegrass) and little or no snow

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Mass. enacts new pesticide mandates

By Vern Putney

The Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture will require all private and commercial pesticide applicators to file an annual report listing specific pesticide use information based on previous year records beginning in 1992.

The records will be made available to the 351 cities and towns in the Bay

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Seed scientists making great strides

By Mark Leslie

While plant breeders are making extraordinary advances in turfgrasses, scientists are probing and developing other improvements using nature's endophytes and nematodes and new

See related stories p. 20-26.

techniques like seed priming and coating.

"A lot of very bright and talented young people are going into turfgrass research," said Dr. Reed Funk

of Rutgers University, an expert in cool-season grasses. "They will do a lot of things that haven't been done.

"Priming," he added, "could be developed to be a delivery system for micro-

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Mass. to require pesticide applicators to file annual reports

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State. The Green Industry Council, a trade group that represents many of the state's superintendents, fears the information could be used to pass even tougher local pesticide laws.

"Professional pesticide applicators have seen an increasing number of cities and towns in Massachusetts adopt ordinances that look to further regulate the use of pesticides. The Green Industry Council strongly opposes this trend," said Phyllis Gillespie, the council's executive director.

eral Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act), gives the federal and state governments the authority to regulate, Gillespie said. It recognized the problems that would arise if cities and towns had this authority, she added.

Gillespie said Massachusetts has a strong record of developing regulations that address public concern for safety and the environment, and stressed that the green industry has consistently complied with these regulations and supports equitable legislation and regulations to meet these objectives.

Ed McGuire, chairman of the council's Public Policy Committee, noted that with hundreds of inconsistent local regulations, developed by boards with little technical expertise and/or support, it would be very difficult for green industry professionals to comply with any new laws.

He cited the Town of Mansfield, which recently passed an ordinance requiring pink 11- by 8 1/2-foot signs posted every 50 feet around the property of lawns treated professionally with turf pesticides.

"This ordinance," McGuire said,

"clearly undermines and is overridden by the state regulation — 333 CMR 10.03 (30) and (31) — requiring yellow signs at the point of entry."

Information requested by the state will include product brand name; EPA registration; active ingredients; percentage of active ingredients product form (e.g. liquid, powder); use classification (general, state limited or restricted); total amount of concentrate product applied in reporting year; major crop or site treated; total acreage treated; target pests or class of

pests; and method of application.

Other Massachusetts requirements include:

- no applications of products on the Groundwater Protection List in primary recharge areas if an alternative exists;
- adoption of an integrated pest management program for all applications of products on the Groundwater Protection List in primary recharge areas; and
- an approved pesticide management plan before any soil application of a Groundwater Protection List product.

Bush

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the game dating "only" from the 1950s, that unyielding surface commonly called "hard-pan" was the norm at most New England courses.

Players coped and adjusted, expected little different, and enjoyed. So the "divot" often was just a puff of dust?

• What were the advantages? Plenty. For openers, the course was playable three weeks earlier in the spring because it had been spared soaking not in Nature's scheme.

By June, the occasional rubber golf shoe had been mothballed. The golfer was on solid earth. Come September, the course was a delight—a fast track inviting low scoring. In late October and early November, leaves and the hunt for stray balls therein slowed playing pace a bit, but there was no slogging through mud as is the current practice. And it was nice to squeeze out another week or two of play, painfully aware that winter's grip soon was to replace golf's grip.

Unlike the modern playing strategy, which is to boom the ball out of sight, left or right, and be fairly sure there will be an open shot to a not-too-distant green, accuracy then was the key. Keeping the ball in the hard-baked fairways on the 10th through 15th hole stretch at Portland Country Club during the mid-30s approached an art form. And there was no convenient clearing once the ball reached the uncooperative rough.

The most deft practitioner of the straight and narrow was host pro Ernest W. Newnham. The fiercely competitive 130-pounder captured his fifth straight Maine Open championship by hitting driver-driver to the 487-yard 16th for an easy birdie. As his caddie, I was as amazed as playoff opponent Eddie Bush. I never saw another "on in two" in nine years of bag-toting.

The secret of his success was pronating (turning over his wrists) and creating amazing overspin on the ball for added distance. Newnham and equally bantam Ben Hogan shared that secret with few.

What chance would Newnham have on the lush fairways demanded by the modern golfer? Next to none. His line drive shots would hit the soft ground like a wounded duck. The ball would bury. To Newnham, there was no such thing as a preferred lie or 'playing relief.' He'd be hopelessly out of touch with golf as played today.

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