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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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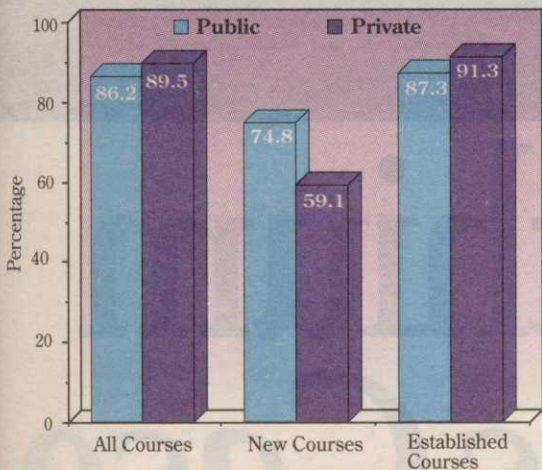
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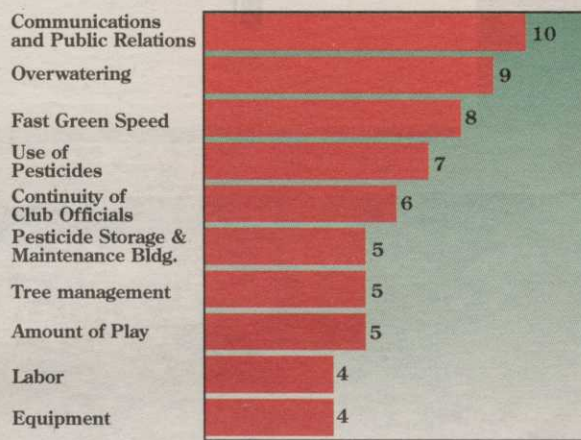
By Peter Blais

Inability to communicate is the major sin committed by those involved in golf course maintenance, according to United States Golf Association agronomists.

Agronomist James Connolly of Willimantic, Conn., gave a talk entitled The Top 10 Sins of Golf Course Maintenance during the recent Maine Golf Turfgrass Conference and Show in Portland.

The Top 10 list resulted from a survey of USGA agronomists conducted last year at the request of a group of golf course owners. Twelve of the 14 USGA Green Sec-

10 Worst Maintenance Problems



These 10 worst problems are listed according to the times they were mentioned by 12 of the agronomists with the United States Golf Association Green Section. Communications was listed the most times — 10 — and labor and equipment the least — 4.

tion agronomists responded.

Architectural comments were eliminated from the survey. But Connolly conceded architectural shortcomings — both outright architectural errors and outdated features like too-small greens or tees — were among the major problems superintendents face daily. Architectural errors would have ranked somewhere in the middle if they had been included.

The responses were regional. Western agronomists sometimes saw problems where their Eastern counterparts said none existed.

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Water tax may cripple Florida courses

By Peter Blais

A water tax proposed by the Florida Legislature would have a "staggering" effect on the state's golf industry, according to Bob Young, head of the Florida Turfgrass Association.

The proposal calls for a 10-cent tax on every 1,000 gallons over a water user's allotment, with the money funding water conservation studies and practices. Courses using effluent would not be affected.

Emerald Dunes Golf Club owner Raymon Finch said the bill is aimed

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A golfer tees off at a unique hole at Venice (Fla.) Golf and Country Club, designed by Ted McAnlis of North Palm Beach, Fla. Venice G&CC has received high marks since opening Jan. 12. For more information on new course development, see pages 29-31.

Tight money dampens optimism

By Mark Leslie

A "tremendous surge" of interest in golf course development is being met by a cautious, stand-pat attitude by banks, according to industry sources.

Whether their optimism springs from

the quick resolution of the Persian Gulf War, lower interest rates, improving demographics or other reasons, developers and buyers are actively looking to move forward on projects.

"There has been a tremendous surge

of new business since Jan. 15, with people going forward planning their projects," said Jim Applegate, president of Gary Player Design Co. of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Jan. 15 was the deadline for

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USGA to fund final research projects

By Peter Blais

Studies on golf course wildlife and the psychological benefits of the game's playing fields are being considered for the final \$300,000 in funding from the United States Golf

Association's \$2.8-million environmental research project.

The USGA will act by July on proposals concerning the effects of golf course maintenance on wildlife, managing wildlife on the course

and the psychological impact of courses on people, according to Mike Kenna, research director for the USGA Green Section.

Studies on the psychological effects of courses have

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