

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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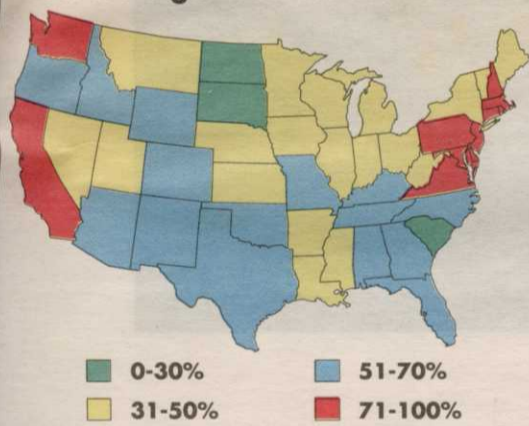
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## N.Y. AG attacks industry's chemical use

By Peter Blais

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has labeled as "unsupported by fact, inaccurate and misleading" a report that golf course pesticides are jeopardizing ground water on New York's Long Island.

But state Attorney General Robert Abrams' office stands by his office's report.

Spokeswoman Leslie Gersing said the study is not meant as an attack on

the golf industry. Instead it should be viewed as a way to begin reducing pesticide use on golf courses, which use far more of the chemicals than lawn care companies or agriculture, she added.

"We found that golf courses used chemicals with the greatest ability to leach into ground water," she said. "There are ways to use healthier pesticides that are less harmful to ground water."

Information for the report, titled Toxic

Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses, was voluntarily supplied by 52 of 107 Long Island courses contacted. Long Island was chosen because its porous and permeable soil makes its ground water particularly vulnerable to hazardous substances from the surface, according to Abrams. Ground water is the sole source of drinking water for the area's 3 million

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## GCSAA starts development department

By Peter Blais

Funding new research and scholarship programs will be the focus of a new department created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Director of Communications Pat Jones has been appointed director of development for the department, which will attempt to raise \$1 million to permanently capitalize the association's scholarship programs and additional funds to finance research projects complementing the U.S. Golf

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Golfers enjoy the fifth, and newest, municipal course in Rockford, Ill. The course is named after retired businessman Norris Aldeen, who donated \$2 million in land and trees. For more on the Aldeen course, see page 31.

## Oregon extinguishing seed growers' burns

By Bob Spiwak

Field burning of turfgrass in Oregon will be a thing of the past by the turn of the century.

On Aug. 7, on a hill overlooking Willamette Valley, Gov. Barbara Roberts signed into law a measure that will gradually decrease the number of acres of fields that can be burned.

The bill also increases fees growers will pay to burn, and provides \$500,000 a year from state coffers to finance research into alternatives to setting the fields afire.

Burning has long been done to remove straw and thatch from turf fields, with an added benefit of limiting diseases. With more than 400,000 acres of turf seed in cultivation in the valley, the smoke produced has long been a source of controversy.

Two decades ago, a move was made to eliminate the fires, but never came to pass. In 1975, a limit of 250,000 acres allowed to be burned was established.

The new law decreased field burning to 180,000 acres this year, down to 40,000 by 1998 and an ultimate ban two years

later.

Propane flaming was restricted to 75,000 acres, with a ban on that method after 1998 unless federal and state pollution standards are met.

According to Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council, burning with propane produces a smaller volume of smoke than open burning, while ridding the fields of crown stubble and disease.

There is a tradeoff. Whereas a hundred acres can be purged in a half hour

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## Mobay appeals \$4.75M EPA fine

PHILADELPHIA — A \$4.75-million penalty, the largest ever for a new chemical violation, has been assessed against Mobay Corp. of Pittsburgh, for violations of the Toxic Substance Control Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued administrative complaints against Mobay and fellow major chemical company Allied Colloids, Inc. of Suffolk, Va. The Allied Colloids fine was \$2 million.

A Mobay spokesman said the firm contends that it had complied with the law, and plans to appeal.

Penalties against Mobay and Allied Colloids were determined by applying an en-

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# Golf Course Marketplace

## GCSAA funding

Continued from page 1

Association's research programs.

"GCSAA has been providing funds for turfgrass research grants and student scholarships for more than 35 years, but the demands are growing and our board has made development one of its top priorities," said GCSAA Executive Director John M. Schilling.

"Dedicating full-time staff to this effort is evidence of GCSAA's commitment to providing the scientific knowledge and educational resources the professional superintendents of the future will need."



Pat Jones

*Now we'd like to complement the USGA's efforts with some real-time studies to document that properly maintained golf courses are environmentally sound.'*

— Pat Jones, GCSAA  
Development Director

Jones said the Robert Trent Jones Fund, the primary funding source for scholarships, currently contains about \$250,000. Increasing that to \$1 million will allow the GCSAA to finance its regular turfgrass research scholarships (which amount to as much as \$30,000 annually), graduate scholarships, Legacy Awards for GCSAA family members and additional scholarships from the interest the fund will earn.

The GCSAA is also studying new ways to meet national and regional research needs that will "complement the outstanding work the USGA is already sponsoring in the areas of turf breeding and environmental research," Schilling said.

One project under consideration would establish one or more research centers on new or existing golf courses.

"A GCSAA research center could give us the opportunity to perform key studies of practices on actual golf courses and be a place for education and training as well," Schilling said.

Jones said he considered his new post "a real challenge" and that there are "some amazing opportunities for GCSAA to become a leading force in research."

The association has worked with the USGA since 1983, co-funding projects that have led to new strains of Bermudagrass and buffalograss.

"The USGA has concentrated on university-based research," Jones said. "We've looked at the GCSAA as the delivery system for the benefits of that research."

"Now we'd like to complement the USGA's efforts with some real-time studies to document that properly maintained golf courses are environmentally sound. We don't want to be redundant or duplicate anyone's research. We'll stress work on golf courses. How much we fund will depend on the nature of the projects."

Jones said he will contact individuals and GCSAA members, as well as foundations and corporations inside and outside the golf industry in the coming months to help fund the new program.

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