

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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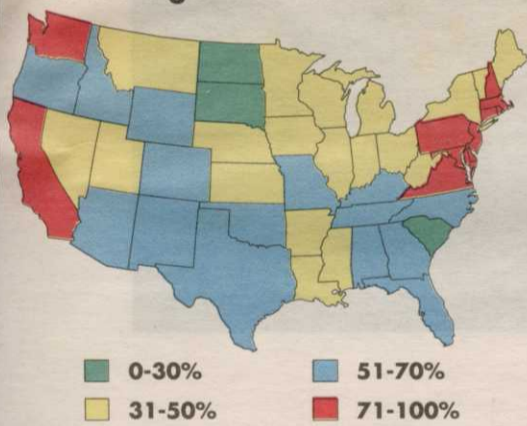
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## N.Y. AG attacks industry's chemical use

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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# Mobay Corp. fined record amount by EPA Lightning plagues golf courses

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-forcement response policy which takes into account the nature, circumstances and extent of each violation.

EPA's complaint against Mobay, containing more than 400 counts, alleges that Mobay:

- imported chemical substances for chemical purposes that were not on EPA's TSCA inventory;
- falsely certified that the import shipments were in compliance with TSCA;
- filed incomplete PMNs that failed to include all known trade names and all intended uses for the specified

chemical substances;

• provided false information to EPA regarding the dates certain substances were first imported;

• improperly reported certain substances to the TSCA inventory during the initial reporting period; and

• submitted inaccurate or unsupported information in required reports.

Under TSCA, companies may not manufacture or import chemical substances unless they are reported to and listed on an inventory of chemical substances compiled by EPA.

New chemical substances must be reported to EPA 90 days prior to

manufacture of import through a pre-manufacture notice which includes information on the intended use of the substance, as well as test data related to human health and environmental effects.

Edwin B. Erickson, regional administrator for EPA Region III, said: "In seeking large penalties for these violations, EPA is sending a message to all chemical manufacturers to abide by the law. When a company violates TSCA rules, it risks exposure of the community and the environment to hazards associated with potentially harmful chemicals."

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for theory or futile safeguards at Hazeltine. It struck in full fury, and tragedy resulted as the group huddled under a lone willow tree close to the 11th tee.

Is there a lesson to be learned? Not really. Man's most sophisticated warning weaponry won't alter the outcome pitting the volatile mix of compacted crowds and wide-open courses against Nature.

The lightning detector is a valued tool in determining suspension of play and clearing players from the course.

As Brian Henning, Senior PGA Tour director, wrote to Markson: "The

lightning detector once again was the deciding factor in suspending play at the recent Kroger Senior Classic in Cincinnati."

The local weather service had told officials to expect rain but no electricity for Wednesday's Pro-Am. "We had just started in the afternoon rain and it suddenly became very dark," said Henning.

"The detector was giving us a warning even though we could not see lightning. We decided to suspend play and call players off the course. Fifteen minutes later the heavens opened. Not only did it rain very hard, but there was cloud-to-ground lightning. Fortunately, everybody was safely under shelter."

Ken Lindsay, PGA of America director, noted that in a tourney at Jackson, Miss., "Airborne equipment helped us to determine the right time to suspend play and evacuate the golfers. Eighteen minutes later, everyone was off the course. Twenty-five minutes later, the lightning began and it started to rain very hard."

While this Airborne-linked action takes care of the players, 40,000 watchers face a dilemma. How and where do you flee to safety?

Castle Pines GC in Castle Rock, Colo., bought French-made "Prevelectron S6" conductors as added lightning safeguards for its mid-August International tour tournament. Used mainly on tall buildings and nuclear power plants, each is said to shield a 200-yard radius of a designated safety zone.

These terminals, about the size of a football and costing \$3,500 each, have a self-contained electrical device that generates ions under storm conditions, creating a path for the lightning to follow and thus directing it away from sensitive areas.

Lightning claimed 106 lives in the United States last year. Now, if the M-01, the Probe and the S6 work as well as the Patriot missile, mankind may have taken a small step to combat, or at least deflect, unforgiving and capricious Nature.

## Ore. burning

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hope is that after years of uncertainty about legislative action, it will "...give a known direction, and get rid of the political squabbles..." associated with the issue of burning.

The future will require new methods as well as different cultivars. For sanitation of fields, experimental raking and thatching are being tried which may take the debris out of the plant crowns. Chemical methods are being investigated. And there are huge field vacuum cleaners, complete with brushes and flails which are another hopeful alternative to burning. Propane burning will not be banned, provided emissions meet federal "PM-10" standards. These require that particulate matter 10 microns or less not exceed 20 pounds per acre, based on an annual average of 24-hour periods of measurement.

It appears that, despite the cries of some doomsayers, the law will not kill the Oregon seed industry.



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