

Briefs



GCSAA JOINS PESTICIDE COALITION

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has joined the Coalition for Sensible Pesticide Policy.

The coalition exists to "secure sensible, uniform federal/state regulation of pesticides by passing pre-emptive legislation, while allowing local input into the federal/state regulatory process."

The GCSAA board of directors voted to join the coalition, President William R. Roberts saying it is crucial that legislators recognize the importance of limiting the authority of pesticide regulations to state and federal agencies.

"The complexities of pesticide regulations and the education process needed for compliance make it imperative that these regulations be consistent — at least on a state-level basis," Roberts said.

NC TURFGRASS GROUP HONORS KOCHER

PINEHURST, N.C. — Brad Kocher, director of golf course and grounds maintenance for Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, has been presented the Outstanding Service Award by the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina for his efforts in fund-raising and promoting turfgrass research.



Brad Kocher

Kocher, a graduate of Miami University and a certified golf course superintendent, has been instrumental in raising funds for the Turfgrass Foundation at North Carolina State University through the Council's annual Golf Day.

Under Kocher's chairmanship, Golf Day raised \$11,000 in 1990 and more than \$14,000 in 1991. Kocher is chairman again this year.

The purpose of Golf Day is to raise money for turfgrass research. Money is raised by asking golfers to make a \$1 per person contribution, sod producers, and the Department of Transportation.

LAWN CARE MONTH IS UPON US

According to the 1990 Census, April is when the lawn care season begins. People all across the country begin tending more than 25 million acres, using more than 61 million power mowers, and spending about a billion hours a year mowing the nation's lawns, parks and sports turf areas.

That's why the Florida Turf Grass Association and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America are supporting establishment of April as "National Lawn Care Month."

The FTGA and PLCAA hope to create an understanding of the environmental, as well as the recreational and aesthetic, benefits of maintaining healthy lawn grasses.

IPMs know no limits, experts say

By Mark Leslie

Integrated Plant Management programs have nearly limitless potential, experts told superintendents at the Golf Course Superintendents Association's International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans in February.

"An IPM is only limited by our imagination," said Tim Hiers, who moderated the session. "It's not cheap. It's not easy. The best way it will work is if superintendents share ideas."

The golf course manager at John's Island Club in Vero Beach, Fla., Hiers said: "Our IPM reaches from the ground to the sky and all around. We're looking for efficiency and safety, not only for our environment and our people, but for our image."

William Start of Turf Renovations, Inc. in Homer, N.Y., defined IPM as "a preventative program in its most comprehensive form. It balances all the inputs — cultural programs, changing technology and monitoring or scouting — to develop a comprehensive approach to all pest management."

Bruce Cadenelli, superintendent at Caves Valley Golf Course in Finksburg, Md., hailed IPMs for "forcing us back to the basics."

Good maintenance practice means using common sense, Cadenelli said, adding, "Sometimes we look at technology as our saving grace, rather than going back to the basics."

Start suggested superintendents establish the goal of maintaining the sparsest use of chemicals to maintain quality and economic viability.

Hiers listed several suggestions from his own course:

- Make sure all irrigation heads are visible

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— Tim Hiers

John's Island West



from the irrigation box. If so, you will be sure to check them to ensure you're not wasting water.

- If an area is not irrigated and it borders good healthy grass, in all probability it will be destructive to your equipment and is breeding insects. If you don't have irrigation you can't treat those areas.

- A cornerstone of IPMs is "a good irrigation system that allows you to water as you need to, not as you can. Grass watered properly is healthier. I take exception to one thing that's being advocated... I don't think we have to accept lesser conditions. I think we have the creativity, ambition and energy to overcome that."

- "If you have a weed, it's going to produce weed heads. Then you're going to have more weeds. Don't let anybody make you think that anything less than a healthy golf course is better for the environment. A healthy golf course is going to produce more oxygen, use more carbon dioxide... There's no substitute for a healthy golf course."

- Set goals. "If you don't, you'll just wander aimlessly."

Hiers' goal in 1991 on the West Golf Course was to have 100 non-irrigated days. "We had 101. Our goal for this year was to have four consecutive non-irrigated days and 102 total. We've already met the first goal."

- "When we use heavy pesticides we take into consideration that it may rain three inches immediately afterward. If you don't, you may kill fish and birds, and those are the ones that get headlines. When we apply a strong pesticide — which is very rarely — it doesn't do any good if you wait to water. By the time you get to the sixth head on that fairway, you may already have 15 birds there."

"When we apply a pesticide that's strong, we make sure we have the capability to water the area simultaneously with two revolutions of the heads to knock the material off the ground immediately. That does a lot of things. It protects wildlife. And, if you do have a rain, you've got it in the ground."

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Envirotron given \$350G for research

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Foundation has received \$350,000 in matching funds from the state for its new Envirotron research facility.

The money, approved by the state of Florida's Capital Facilities Trust, along with \$350,000 raised by the foundation through private donations, will be used to build a laboratory dedicated to developing methods to preserve and improve the environment. The University of Florida campus in Gainesville will be the home of the Envirotron. Construction should begin later this year.

The Envirotron will become the state's first Environmental Research Unit. Top scientists will be retained to investigate and study the effects of pollutants in ground water; the effects of herbicide, fungicide and pesticide on the environment; the breeding of new grasses requiring less water; and the furthering of biological control methods for turfgrass pests.

Water conservation strategies and the use of recycled water for irrigation also will be studied.

"The initial funding of \$350,000 needed for the FTGA to qualify for fund matching was made possible by a unified funding campaign through the effort of FTGA members, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and many other private organizations, clubs and individuals," said Bob Yount, executive director of The Florida Turfgrass Association.

"This effort was possible only because of the desire of all those in Florida's Turf Industry to advance the industry but not sacrificing Florida's sensitive environment or natural resources."

"Accurate scientific data will now be available to all Floridians who want a 'Green Florida' but not at the expense or risk of damaging our environment."

PGA, Pursell chip in

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Florida facilities of the PGA Tour and Pursell Industries have made a financial contribution to support funding efforts for the Envirotron Research Laboratory.

The contribution comes from the PGA Tour Florida facilities, including TPC at Sawgrass, TPC at Eagle Trace, TPC at Prestancia, TPC of Tampa Bay, Golf Club of Miami and Golf Club of Jacksonville.

Pursell Industries, involved in manufacturing turf-care products, also contributed to the facility to promote the ongoing research advancements of the industry.

"The PGA Tour's four Tournament Players Clubs and two public facilities within the state of Florida, along with Pursell Industries, are pleased to make this contribution to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation on behalf of their Envirotron project," said Mark Barrett, chief operating officer of PGA Tour Investments. "The PGA Tour has an established track record of golf course development tempered with ecological concern, and Pursell's concern for the environment is well known in its industry."

"We are hopeful the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation and the new Envirotron laboratory will provide valuable information that will support our mutual efforts."

Florida association co-sponsors turfgrass industry survey

ORLANDO, Fla. — The University of Florida and Florida Turfgrass Association and Research Foundation have pledged \$345,000 to a project touted as the most comprehensive turf industry survey in the nation. This study will complete the second half of a major proactive plan by the FTGA to develop a new awareness for the turfgrass industry.

A major element of the survey will be its measurement of the economic impact turfgrass plays in the state of Florida.

The University of Florida is contributing \$205,000 and FTGA is donating \$140,000.

Conducted by the University of Florida Food and Resource Economics Department, the survey results are anticipated to produce concrete data elevating turfgrass as a most valued resource in the state of Florida.

Record number at show

NEW ORLEANS — A record 593 exhibitors plied their wares at the 1992 International Golf Course Conference and Show, held here in February.

More than 15,000 superintendents, turfgrass professionals and suppliers to the golf course industry attended the show, hosted by the GCSAA.

IPM programs limited only by superintendents' imagination

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- Take advantage of the dew when you spray.
- Know your threshold level for wind when applying chemicals.
- Look at the reason for the problem. "Is it shade, poor drainage, imbalanced soil? How about water quality? Maybe your water pH is high. Tests show that in some cases in 20 minutes of mixing organic phosphate with high-pH water, can reduce organic phosphate's effectiveness 50 percent."
- Tree trimming. Most people associate disease and tree problems with shade. Air circulation is just as critical.
- John's Island West's pesticide budget for 36 holes has been reduced \$21,000, largely due to more sunlight and better circulation from removal of 4,200 palm trees and 165 live oaks.
- Tree roots must be pruned. Tree roots will outdo turf every time. "Trim them, and you will see a dramatic difference in your turf."
- If you redesign your irrigation system, have a set of heads for the greens only and the tees only. Normally those two grasses are totally different.
- Spread out traffic.
- Aerify. A deeper root system equals healthier plants. Top dressing controls thatch.
- Apply polymers to reduce water usage. "You have to be careful with them, and research what you're going to use. But I can say they work."
- If an area is out of play, plant it in ground cover. There is no mowing, no fertilization, no pesticides.
- Eliminate drainage problems.
- Use white amur fish in lakes to reduce use of aquatic herbicides.
- Use a camera. "We have to sell ourselves to our members... Why? So that when you suggest changes you have credibility."

THE TEAM SYSTEM

Start recommended superintendents use training and the team approach in their IPM programs.

He suggested:

- Set up a team. Members must be trained to interact as well as perform their responsibilities.
- Develop a plan of action and put it in writing. "Communication is important so everyone in the club knows they're working to a goal, what the goal and the timeframe are. Define the tools necessary to accomplish it."
- Monitor the course. A "scout," trained in turf maintenance, should regularly check the course — both visibly and with diagnostic tools. "Inspect and sample at the same times of day so measurements are comparable."
- "Successful programs are based on information gathering," Start said. "It's the superintendent's job, not the scout's, to recommend treatment."

He recommended breaking down the golf course into units and sub-units — quadrants, high and low elevations, fairways; number of heads on fairways.

"IPM can be likened to a mechanic's

toolbox, with a supply of the proper tools available to protect your turf. You just have to choose the proper one to use," he said

Start said one of the negatives associated with IPM is "the misconception of the untrained that IPM leads to the reduction or full elimination of pesticides. To the contrary, one of those tools in the toolbox is pesticides and it will remain an important one."

"We've all been guilty in the past of overusing this tool. Now is the time to re-evaluate what many of our peers have always known. Re-

member, IPM is used in conjunction with pesticides to provide pest management strategies."

Cadenelli said superintendents involved in IPMs are "looking at a new perspective. We're just not making chemicals our number-one choice."

He cited weather stations, disease testing, tissue testing and fertigation as important aspects of IPMs. "Let some of the golf course go back to nature. Give part of the course up to science," he added.

Cadenelli also suggested superintendents investigate computer

programs that can overlay the golf course and chart where the problems are over the next decade."

Hiers added that education of club members and the public will be critical to the future.

He pointed specifically to green speed, which he said endangers the health of turf and forces use of chemicals.

"There is a direct correlation between cutting height and stress on your greens. We have to educate our members about that. Only five percent of most clubs can put on

very-fast greens. But those that can are very vocal," he said.

"Golf courses can be beautiful. Learn the benefits. Educate members as much as you can. The more grass you mow, the more pesticides, water, electricity and gasoline you have to use. If we don't do our job and don't earn the trust of the public... we might not have a job some day."

"But, I know we're a benefit for our town, our environment. I know we recharge the aquifer. I know we clean the air. I know we provide a habitat for animals."

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