

Nichols and professors highlight USGA session

TIFTON, Ga. — The USGA Green Section's 47th annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference is due here April 12-13.

First-day social events begin with a golf tournament at Spring Hill Country Club sponsored by the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association. Registration should be made with Karen White, 706-769-4076.

Registration and inspection of experiment station turfgrass research plots is at 2 p.m., and barbecue dinner and putting tournament at Tifton Family Golf Course at 6 p.m.

The education program April 13, is at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College auditorium.

Speakers include Mike Beebe of McCumber Golf Designs; Dr. Robert Dunn of the University of Florida; Dr. Wayne Hanna of the

USDA-Tifton; Dr. Kimberly Erusha of the USGA Green Section; and Drs. Tim Murphy and Will Hudson of the University of Georgia.

Superintendents speaking will be new GCSAA president Randy Nichols of Cherokee Town and CC, Dunwoody; GGCSA president William Shirley, Idle Hour Club, Macon; and Dick Gray, Loblolly Pines, Hobe Sound, Fla.

Course management videos target balance with nature

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — New videos entitled Golf Course Management — In Balance With Nature are now available for use by golf course superintendents to train employees and inform the public about turf care with an environmental focus. The two-video set comes with a comprehensive eight-page training manual that provides the latest information about environmental turf management.

Intended as a tool for golf course superintendents, the videos and manual are designed to help train employees and inform general audiences about environmental turf care practices. The videos are sponsored by Monsanto Company in cooperation with GCSAA Scholarship and Research and are not product specific.

"The golf course training videos explain benefits and procedures for turf care programs that are not only effective, but also in harmony with the environment," explains Jim Budzynski, product director, Dithiopyr, for Monsanto Company's New Products Division. "Maintaining healthy golf course turf while protecting the environment can be a balancing act. These videos show how managers can balance their turf care needs and help protect the environment by learning as much as possible about how their work affects the world beyond the 18th hole."

The first video focuses on training, Budzynski says. Step One: Training introduces turf areas as valuable ecosystems, and informs workers about programs and products to care for those systems, as well as the larger environment. The video also provides tips on proper pesticide use — from choosing the right clothing and equipment to application procedures. A study guide and quiz are included for further information and discussion.

The second video is entitled Step Two: Sharing. It's designed for superintendents to show the general public that environmentally sound practices are followed in managing today's golf courses. "This second video is an excellent public relations tool for use whenever the need arises," Budzynski says. "For example, it might be included as part of a presentation to civic groups when managers are invited to speak."

"The two-video set provides an excellent all-round communication program," Budzynski concludes. Superintendents can obtain a copy of the videos and manuals by calling 1-800-323-1421, or writing to Monsanto Fulfillment, 1325 N. Warson Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63132. The videos are available, free of charge (one set per request), while supplies last.

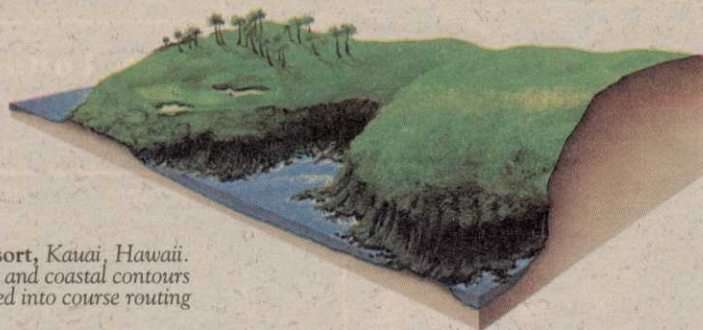
UMass Coop Extension offers organics sessions

The University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System and Natural Organic Landscape Professionals Association are presenting two sessions dealing with Organic Lawn Care: Practices and Certification Standards. The sessions will be held March 30 in Auburn and April 2 in Wareham. Further information is available from the Extension office in Worcester.



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