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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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A USGA agronomist believes comparing courses by their green speeds is "ludicrous" 15

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DOGWOODS, ASH AT RISK
Dogwood anthracnose (as shown in the above leaf) is devastating America's dogwood trees from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Meanwhile, Ash Yellows has stricken the nation's supply of green and white ash. See page 13.

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UGeorgia to create a 21-hole, working lab

By MARK LESLIE

GRIFFIN, Ga. — The nation's first research-intensive golf course is going out to bid.

The University of Georgia's 21-hole facility, located on land at the school's Experiment Station here, will be a living laboratory on which scientists will perform hands-on, innovative research into all aspects of maintenance from growing turfgrasses to pesticide fate.

The University of Georgia in April put out a request for proposals to private companies to build the facility on 165 acres the school owns. The university will receive some of the profits from the course operation to fund the research.

"We're excited about making this truly an all-research and education golf course," said Dr. Ed Kanemasu, research leader for University of Georgia's Crop and Soil Science Department.

Kanemasu, who has shepherded the plan through university and state protocol for two years, said: "We will be testing different grasses and work on irrigation, water use, movement of pesticides, herbicide treatments, and hopefully expand out to all of the things associated with golf courses — like mowing and the wear from equipment and golf carts."

"This will be intensive,
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The text of Paul Harvey's March 25 commentary:

Golfers at many or most of the magnificent golf courses are missing something important this spring — bird song. Greenskeepers have denied that their pesticides are killing their birds, but they can't deny it anymore. A conference yesterday in Wilmington, N.C., heard recommendations on how to make golf courses more environmentally friendly. Pesticides on golf courses are polluting coasting fishing waters in some places. More than 50 different chemicals are used on golf courses to kill insects and weeds and rodents, and regulations of the use of those chemicals is almost nonexistent. The USGA is presently completing its own three-year study, but the bottom line seems to be that some course designers and some who maintain them will not behave unless there are new laws to require it.

Harvey comment touches a nerve

By HAL PHILLIPS

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The golf industry is still steaming about a Paul Harvey radio report that condemned golf course maintenance practices as underregulated and irresponsible.

The syndicated report, issued by the venerable broadcaster on March 25, measured only 128 words in length (see text at left). But its effect on golf course industry members was felt across the nation.

"I became outraged upon listening to such nonsense, and such foolish accusations," wrote Gary Nokes in a letter to the editor (page 10). Nokes is superintendent at Bey Lea Municipal Golf Course in Tom's River, N.J. "I would like to show Mr. Harvey

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Golf industry differs on trade policies

By PETER BLAIS

Satisfied with their access to Japanese markets, golf industry suppliers are generally not among the American businesses supporting President Clinton's threats of higher tariffs if the Japanese refuse to open their doors to freer trade.

"We don't have a problem selling product in Japan," said Dennis Hays, director of the Oregon Seed Trade Association. "Some American seed producers are even Japanese owned. It's a good market for us."

In a formal late-March news conference, Clinton said he believed the Japanese un-

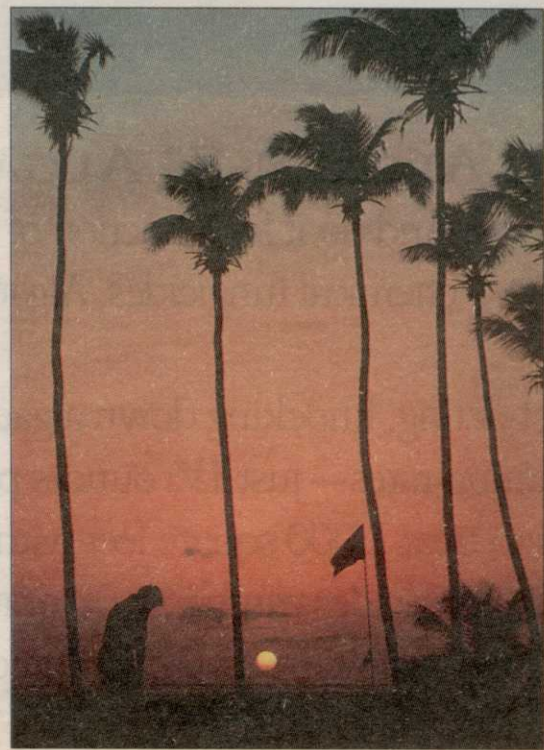
At odds with Clinton on Japanese tariffs

fairly prevent the sale of U.S. goods in their country. He promised to try to change that, possibly by raising tariffs on Japanese goods sold here.

"We hate to see the administration bashing Japan. We don't want higher tariffs on them," Hays said.

The seed industry's major problems involve other Pacific Rim nations — primarily China, Australia and New Zealand, Hays

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SUPERINTENDENT IN PARADISE
Super Focus on Mike Meehan, the man in charge of the Four Seasons resort on Nevis Island in the Caribbean. See page 14.

Working with lava...

Going with the flow

By MARK LESLIE

Lava: The substance of nightmares for golf course builders.

It rips up heavy machinery and adds mega-dollars to construction costs and months to timetables. It's so tough you sometimes have to blast it with dynamite. Tales about the hardened volcanic discharge are legend.

- Some tell of bulldozers falling through hollow "lava tubes" to solid ground 10 feet below.

- Surveyors reportedly wear out a pair of boots every couple of weeks tromping through it.

- You could turn on a fire
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