

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Golf Asia '94 is history. Architects are busy (page 42) but questions about the show's future remain ..... 59

## Survey: Supers applying fewer, safer pesticides

By HAL PHILLIPS

More than 60 percent of golf course superintendents surveyed by the Gallup Organization indicated they have altered their maintenance practices compared to three years ago, citing pressure from government regulation, economic factors and environmental concerns.

The 1994 Sandoz National Environmental Poll, conducted by Gallup, contacted a random sample of 2,050 professionals who apply pest control products: farmers, roadside vegetation managers, lawn care workers, pest control operators, mosquito district managers and small animal veterinarians. This year's biennial survey included, for the first time, golf course superintendents.

**Question:** Do people in your industry

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### Sandoz National Environmental Poll 1994

Superintendents Responding .....

Compared to five years ago, are you making fewer applications of pest control products?

Yes — 61%  
No — 36%

Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available?

Always — 70%  
Sometimes — 27%  
Not Usually — 2%  
Never — 1%

Compared to three years ago, are you doing things differently regarding use of pest control products?

Yes — 67%  
No — 30%

## Pesticide fate model may be inaccurate

By DR. MIKE KENNA

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Researchers here at the Georgia Agriculture Experiment Station have suggested that one of the mathematical models used by environmental regulators and scientists to predict the fate of pesticides will need a major overhaul before it accurately represents what happens on golf course turf.

"Results indicate that the GLEAMS model, with the defined parameters of our study, overestimated the actual values received from lysimeters for the potential of 2,4-D to move through putting green root zones," reported Dr. Al Smith, University of Georgia.

The GLEAMS (Groundwater Loading Effects of Agriculture Management Systems) mathematical model is commonly used to help identify chemical and soil properties, as well as plant and meteorological factors influencing the transport

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## Bringing new meaning to 'earth moving'

By HAL PHILLIPS

GLENDALE, Calif. — While some golfers claim their home course plays differently each time out, Shoal Canyon Golf Course almost certainly will.

Currently under construction, Shoal Canyon — an American Golf Corp. project designed by Williams, Gill & Associates — isn't your typical 18-hole, short course built on a mountain-top landfill. Portions of the 60-acre site are sinking at rates of up to six feet per year.

The recent Los Angeles earthquake dropped one green down a full foot overnight, according to Dale Siemens, president of Fresno-based Daylen Inc., which is

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THE NEW, CAREFREE ATTITUDE AT TELLURIDE

The newly formed management firm, Carefree Resorts, is upgrading its three facilities: The Peaks at Telluride (above), Carmel Valley Ranch and The Boulders. Carefree executives indicate they are actively seeking new additions in Mexico, Hawaii and the Caribbean. For story, see page 54.

## Pooling results in huge workers' comp savings

By PETER BLAIS

Some Ohio course operators are enjoying an 83-percent reduction in their workers compensation insurance costs because of legislation passed in the Ohio general assembly and the efforts of the state's golf course owners association.

Bills authorizing the pooling of similar businesses for insurance purposes have

been authorized in 40 states, according to Charles Freutel, national sales manager with the Frank Gates Service Co., a research and benefits consulting firm. This grouping allows members to obtain lower workers' compensation rates than they could individually.

Golf course owners associations in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advan-

tage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners

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TPC SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Gary Myers (right), seen here with Tournament Players Club Director of Maintenance Cal Roth, has been named the top superintendent in the TPC system. See page 20.

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

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## Scotts names new nat'l accounts manager

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — David J. Oberle of San Diego, Calif., has been promoted to the position of national accounts manager, Golf Course Management Companies of The Scotts Company Professional Business Group (PBG).

Oberle joined The Scotts Company in 1987 as a technical representative. His success in providing technical sales and service to clients throughout the Southern California area

earned him a promotion first to senior technical representative, then to executive technical representative.

Oberle also has extensive golf course experience, having worked with the Somerset CC in Mendota Heights, Minn.; the Pine Hills CC in Sheboygan, Wis., and the Congressional CC in Bethesda, Md. A commercial liaison for the San Diego Superintendents Association.

## Sandoz surveys pesticide applicators

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*always, sometimes, not usually or never use safer pest control products when available?*

Seventy percent of superintendents answered "always," compared to 54 percent for lawn care applicators (LCA) and 48 percent for farmers. Sixty-five percent of superintendents indicated they "always" wear protective clothing when applying pesticides, as opposed to 50 percent of the surveyed LCAs and 17 percent of the farmers.

"The survey showed that golf

Fifty-three percent of the superintendents surveyed said they didn't receive any complaints from the public, while 15 percent cited problems pertaining to odor.

course superintendents have at least an equal concern to those of the agricultural and lawn care communities," said Jeff Cook, Sandoz's business manager for

Barricade. "Maybe more than anything, I would have expected the golf course industry to respond in a more cavalier way — and the reason I say that is, we know the superintendents are under a lot of pressure to do a better job with less money. But there is clearly a high level of professional concern."

**Question:** *What is the most common complaint you hear from the public, your neighbors or customers relating to the use of pesticide products?*

Fifty-three percent of the superintendents surveyed said they didn't receive any complaints, while 15 percent cited problems pertaining to odor. Nine percent of the golf course managers reported fielding complaints about worker safety, and 5 percent heard complaints regarding environmental safety.

More than 50 percent of all surveyed groups indicated they are dealing with more public concern over pest control and the environment, compared to five years ago. Farmers were the highest, at 80 percent.

Yet about half of the respondents in all groups said their personal level of concern associated with pest control has also increased over the past five years.

According to Cook, these are disturbing trends the chemical industry cannot afford to ignore.

"Honestly, I think some people in the industry — competitors included — get nervous about surveys like these," said Cook. "Why? I'm not sure. In the agricultural community, it's more exposed. Every time an issue is raised, it's discussed publicly."

"In the golf course business, it seems to hit closer to home. Manufacturers don't want to be quite as open about the issues at hand. We thought long and hard about doing the study [and including superintendents], but we thought it was the right thing to do."

"These issues are not going to go away."

According to Max Larsen, executive vice president for Gallup in Lincoln, Neb.: "Respondents said that manufacturers and the government have primary responsibility to educate the public and fix safety and environmental problems."

"But they see themselves as partners in the process."

**Question:** *Do people in your industry always, sometimes, not usually or never follow labels closely?*

A full 93 percent of superintendents polls answered "always," the highest figure for any of the seven groups. Farmers were lowest at 68 percent.

Cook said it cost Sandoz approximately \$100,000 to conduct the poll. A minimum of 100 superintendents were among the 2,050 pesticide applicators contacted — via the telephone — by the Gallup Organization. For more information on the survey and information about obtaining a copy, call Sandoz at 708-699-1616.

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