

Research results to be unveiled at regional seminars

By DR. KIMBERLY ERUSHA

From Massachusetts to Hawaii, the long-awaited results from the first phase of USGA's Environmental Research Program will be shared with thousands of seminar participants this spring. The USGA Green Section will host 19 one-day regional conferences across the country during March, April

Dr. Kimberly Erusha is director of education for the United States Golf Association Green Section.

and May.

At each conference, the morning session will present the results from the environmental research projects completed during 1990 to 1993. Twenty-one research projects were funded in the three-year, \$3.2 million program. The overall goal of the sponsored research was to determine the effects of golf course cultural practices on the persistence and mobility of selected pesticides in the turfgrass environment.

The program will kick-off with a brief history of the USGA's long-term involvement in turfgrass research. The USGA's challenge has been not merely to improve the quality of the game, but also to enhance the quality of the game's impact on the environment.

Turf offers many benefits to the landscape, serving as an excellent filtering system, reducing erosion, restoring areas damaged by other land uses, improving air quality, and

moderating temperatures. The first segment of the regional seminars will highlight how turfgrass and golf courses benefit the environment. Based on research conducted by Drs. James Beard and Robert Green, an extensive research review of the role of turfgrasses in environmental protection and their benefit to humans will be presented.

The regional conference will continue with a discussion about the effects of golf courses on



people and wildlife. Golf courses can be maintained as a diverse ecosystem, providing a high-quality playing surface as well as natural surroundings for wildlife. Part of this review will include research conducted by The Institute of Wildlife and Environmental Toxicology investigating the impact golf courses have on surrounding wildlife.

A major portion of the USGA research program centered on determining what happens to products applied to turf maintained under golf course conditions, and the potential impact they have on our precious water resources. A segment of the regional program will summarize the USGA-supported research results which focused on pesticide and nutrient fate, and water quality issues. Much of the research concluded that when products are properly selected and applied, their impact on the environment is negligible.

But proper product selection and use is an important component in this equation. The final portion of the environmental seminar will be presented by the person well known to the superintendent — the USGA regional agronomist. This wrap-up presentation will present ideas for maintaining environmentally friendly golf courses in their specific region of the country. The USGA agronomists will summarize the research results, discussing how to utilize the information and how to alter maintenance practices to minimize any impacts on the environment.

For more information on these regional conferences, or to register, contact your local regional agronomist, or the USGA Green Section:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Feb. 27 — Green Section Educational Conference, San Francisco.

FLORIDA REGION

April 4 — Palm Beach Gardens Marriott

April 6 — Orlando Airport Marriott

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

April 4 — Woodholme CC, Pikesville, Md.

MID-CONTINENT REGION

March 28 — Lakewood CC, Denver

March 30 — Old Warson CC, St. Louis

April 4 — Dallas Athletic Club

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

March 9 — Maple Bluff CC, Madison, Wis.

March 23 — Inverness Club, Toledo, Ohio

NORTHEASTERN REGION

April 11 — CC of Rochester, N.Y.

April 13 — Colonial Hilton Hotel, Wakefield, Mass.

April 18 — Headquarters Plaza Hotel, Morristown, N.J.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION

March 14 — CC of South Carolina, Florence

WESTERN REGION

March 7 — Canterwood G&CC, Gig Harbor, Wash.

March 15 — Sharon Heights G&CC, Menlo Park, Calif.

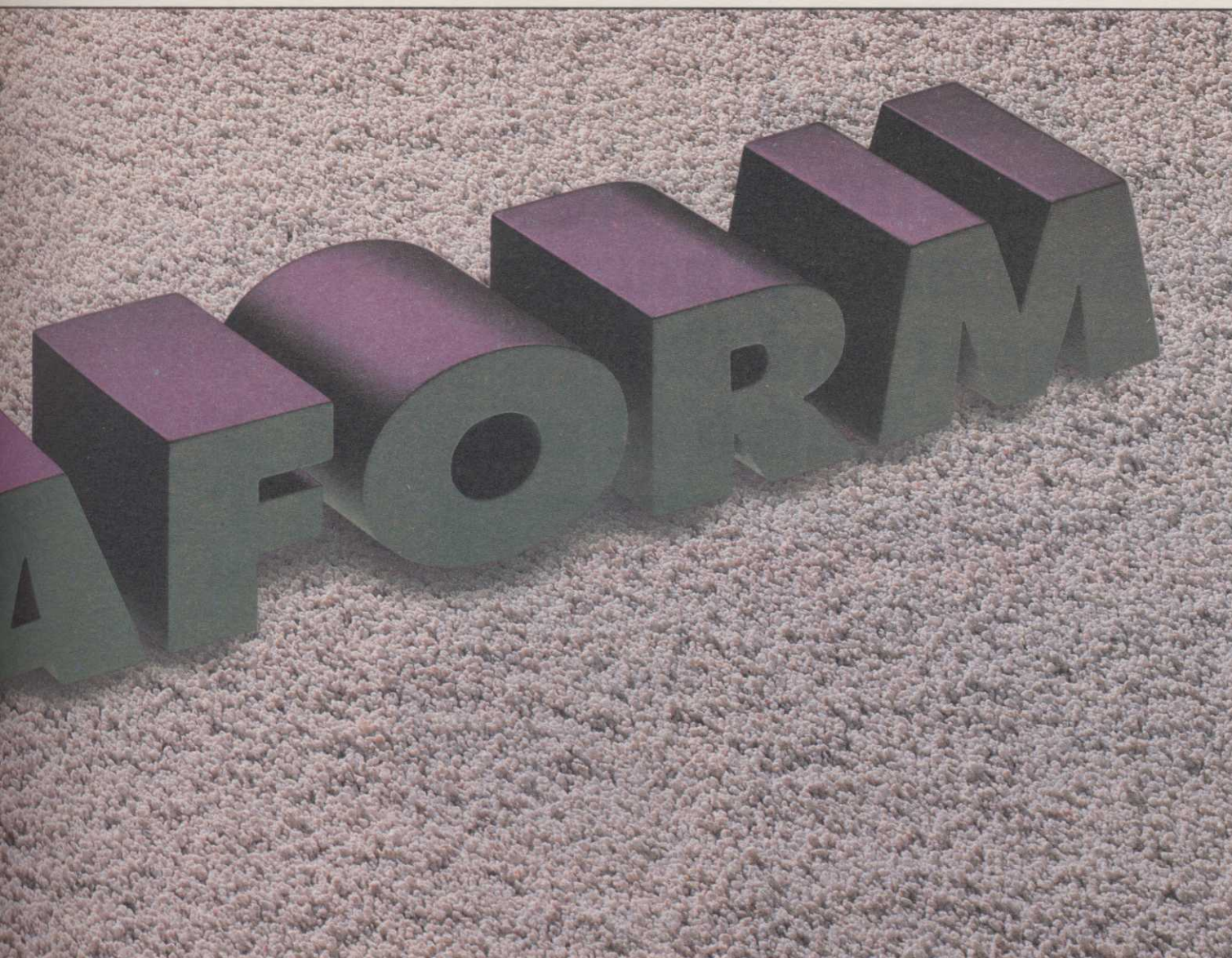
March 24 — University of California-Riverside

April 5 — TBA, Las Vegas

April 6 — Arizona CC, Phoenix

April 10 — Makena Resort, Maui, Ha.

May 8 — Hillcrest CC, Boise Idaho



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