

NEWS IN BRIEF

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. — Prisoners at the Arizona Department of Corrections will soon be doing maintenance work at the Dave White Municipal Golf Course here. Inmates already work at a landfill on garbage maintenance and weed control, and the City Council recently voted 6-0 to allow them to work on the golf course.

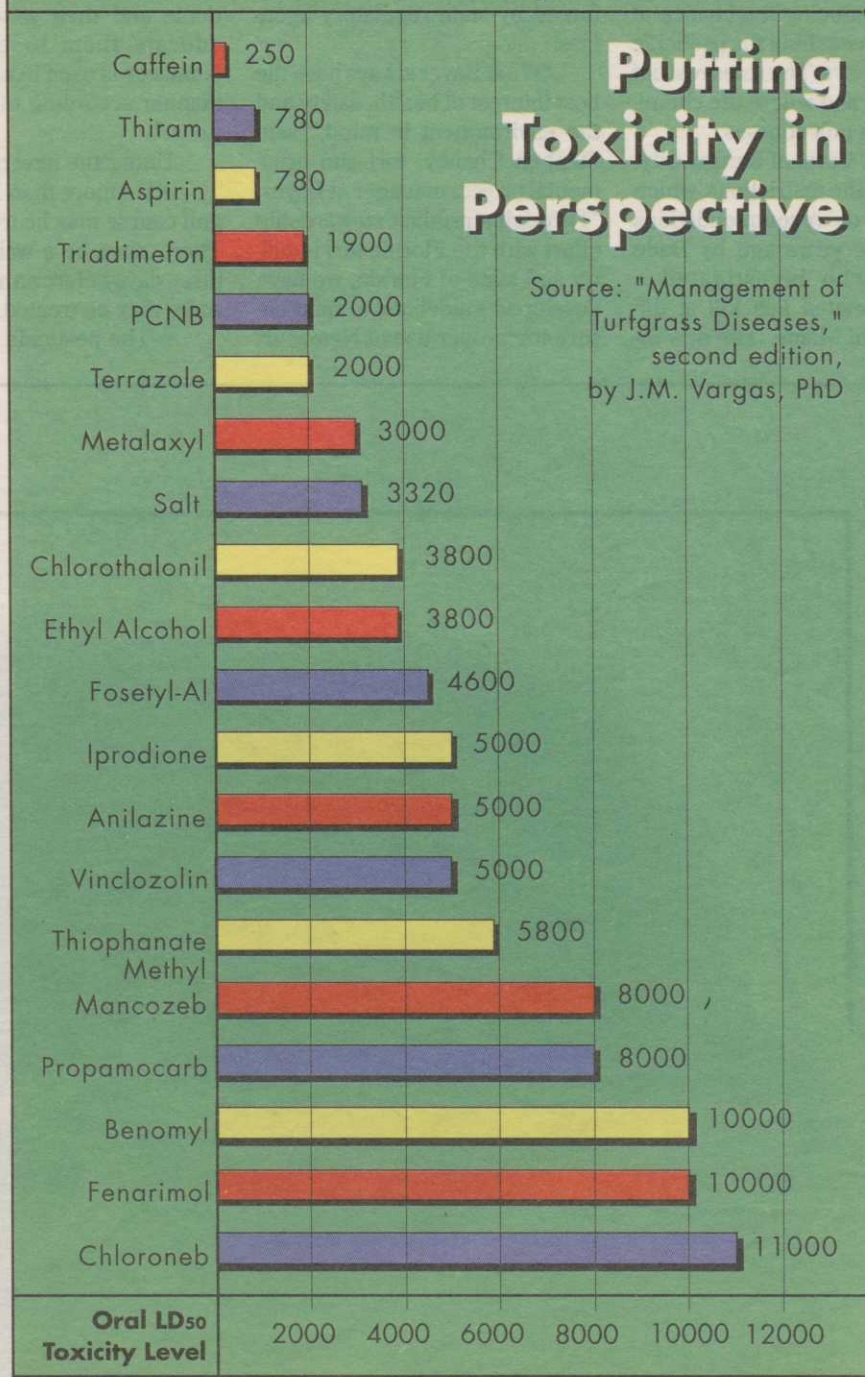
PONTIAC, Mich. — American Golf Corp. (AGC) will run Pontiac's newly-designed 18-hole municipal course. The city track was rebuilt at a cost of about \$6.3 million as part of an overall \$35 million development that includes 185 new homes. The AGC proposal guarantees the city at least \$200,000 of revenue from course operations each year. The firm also pledged to renovate the clubhouse and let the city pay it back over the length of the lease.

VASS, N.C. — Construction is underway here at Woodlake Country Club on a new 18-hole course designed by Arnold Palmer. The new track will give Woodlake a total of 36 holes. Plans call for remodeling nine existing holes and building nine new ones. The new course is scheduled to open in late spring 1996.

DAYTON, Nevada — The first golf resort in northern Nevada will not spring up in Reno or Lake Tahoe. Try Lyon County here in the Dayton Valley. John Lawrence Nevada Inc. is developing plans to build a 300-room resort to complement the existing Arnold Palmer-designed course, which gets 30,000 rounds of golf per year.

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. — An 18-hole golf course could be part of a proposed 5,000-unit housing development now known as StoneRidge. The project, formerly called Lynx Creek Ranch, would be located south of Highway 69 at Old Black Canyon Highway. StoneRidge planner Gil Martinez said he didn't know whether the course would be public or private, but added there is a possibility of a resort component on the hill surrounding the golf course.

Figures below chart the LD₅₀ oral toxicity ratings for turfgrass and agricultural pesticides, in addition to a few benchmark items. LD₅₀ is an abbreviation of "median lethal dose," indicating the amount of toxicant necessary to affect a 50% kill of the pest in question. The lower the LD₅₀ number, the more potent the ingredient.



GCSAA signs on with EPA risk reduction plan

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) will participate in the federal government's new Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Under the program, GCSAA will work in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop a strategy that further reduces risks from the use of pesticides on golf courses.

"We are absolutely committed to using responsible management practices that pose little, if any, environmental risk," said GCSAA President Gary Grigg. "Through this partnership, we'll be able to work with the leading federal authorities to find new and innovative ways to use pesticides effectively and safely and to minimize any potential harm to people, wildlife and the environment."

The stewardship program is the first under a commitment made by the three agencies before the U.S. House of Representatives in September 1993. The program commits the agencies to work jointly with pesticide user groups.

In a news release announcing the pesticide initiative, Carol M. Browner, EPA administrator, said, "I congratulate the companies and grower groups that are joining with us for their forward-thinking approach to environmentally sound pesticide use practices."

The EPA's Anne Leslie, who will coordinate GCSAA's strategy development, said, "We are very pleased that GCSAA has joined our Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, and I look forward to working with this professional organization in developing their strategy."

The framework for the strategy emphasizes education, training, research and continued development, and careful use of pest control products that pose risks.

"GCSAA has already demonstrated a commitment to educate their members in less risky pest control methods by initiating IPM curriculum as a part of their certification program," said Leslie. "GCSAA has also established its own Environmental Stewardship Awards program, which highlights the efforts of individual superintendents to reduce the risk of pesticides to the environment. A large number of superintendents have enthusiastically adopted the New York Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which is an important part of this."

EPA: NOTHING ADVERSE IN 2,4-D

The re-registration task force on 2,4-D has reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the 50-year-old product presents no significant adverse effects to human health or the environment. Even when used at three times the dose levels previously tested, 2,4-D did not result in carcinogenicity. Dr. Phillip Szmedra of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service said there would be a \$2 billion economic impact on industry if 2,4-D were banned. The 2,4-D Task Force was initiated in 1988 in response to a data call from the EPA requiring 200 toxicology, environmental fate, wildlife and residue studies on the multiple forms of 2,4-D.

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