

American Golf honors Coste

American Golf Corp. has created an academic scholarship in memory of former Regional Superintendent Pete Coste, who died recently of a brain aneurysm.

"Pete Coste dedicated his life to golf and golf maintenance and he was instrumental in shaping the careers of many aspiring superintendents," said Dean Wochaski, director of maintenance for American Golf's Northeast Region. "This assistance will hopefully help our co-workers further their careers as superintendents with American Golf."

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To raise money for the scholarship fund, the first annual Pete Coste Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing took place at the Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course on Oct. 21. The \$1,000 scholarship recipients are Michael Mitts of Clearview Golf Course, Frank Carcaterra of Dyker Beach Golf Course and Richard Pietropola of Brigantine Golf Links. Anthony Hooks of South Shore Golf Course and Thomas Imperati of Van Cortlandt Golf Course will each receive awards of \$600. All five will continue in their positions as American Golf assistant superintendents while studying turf management.

Dicamba study

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of 2,4-D in percolate water over a two-month period following August 1993 and April 1994 applications was 2.6 and 1.2 parts per billion (ppb). The MCL for 2,4-D is 70 ppb.

The more mobile dicamba, they said, was discovered at concentrations of 2.5 ppb in 1994 and 1.7 in 1993. There are no

MCL levels for dicamba, although 70 ppb is the most limiting of several legal standards for it as well.

The researchers also studied residue of the herbicides in grass clippings and thatch and found little about which to be concerned. "Considerably more dicamba, and especially 2,4-D, was recovered in clippings following the application in 1993 than was recovered in the 1994 study," they reported. "Nevertheless, in both studies no more than 0.25 percent of the herbicide applied was recovered in the clippings, indicating that clippings are not a major pathway for the removal of these herbicides from treated turfgrass areas..

The measurements provide information about the safety of clippings used for various purposes, such as compost. Degradation of 2,4-D, for instance, has been found to be incomplete during municipal solid-waste composting.

In both years, peaks for concentrations of dicamba, and especially for 2,4-D, in soil and thatch were "clearly observable shortly after each of the two applications," the scientists said. "However, concentrations rapidly declined during the two weeks following each application, but still persisted at detectable levels for approximately two months."

The findings on thatch levels were in contrast to previous studies for organophosphates such as fonofos, isazophos, chlorpyrifos and isofenphos in which more than 80 percent of the pesticide was found in the thatch long after application.

From 40 to 90 percent of the detected dicamba and 2,4-D was found in the thatch. Although difference between the two was not great, a somewhat higher percentage of 2,4-D than dicamba generally resided in the thatch layer, Snyder and Cisar said.

"Shortly after each application, the percentage of 2,4-D and dicamba in the thatch was greatest, with somewhat lower thatch percentages, and therefore higher soil percentages, being observed several days after application," they reported.

In each study the herbicides were applied twice at one-week intervals, followed the next day by 9 millimeters of irrigation and by subsequent irrigations to maintain soil moisture. Although the dicamba application rate was 10 percent that of 2,4-D, the recovery of these materials in percolate water was of the same order of magnitude.

Snyder said he and Cisar are working on ways to reduce even these low levels of dicamba and 2,4-D concentration.

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