THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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Ryder Cup Diary

Superintendent Kevin Ross chronicles his experiences as a volunteer at The CC of Brookline ..

Tools of the Trade

GCN premiers a new column highlighting mainte-



RTJ II TRACK NO GAMBLE IN VEGAS

Breaking the ice saves turf

Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., right, discusses a modification in the design of a fairway at Southern Highlands Golf Club in Las Vegas with club President Garry Goett. See story, page 17.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

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Hurricane Floyd leaves its mark on Carolinas

WILMINGTON, N.C. - Hurricane Floyd and the heavy rains that followed in mid-September left numerous courses submerged and forced many to close for a month or more.

Floyd came ashore here Sept. 13. The Wilmington area was hit full force by the hurricane, but escaped the worst of the floods, according to Joey Hines, head pro

at Cape Fear Country Club. "We got 33 inches of rain, but never flooded to the point many other courses did," Hines said. "Anything from Wallace to Kenston to Greenville was badly flooded. The perimeter roads leading into and around Wilmington were washed out. But Wilmington did not have real bad floods.

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yler Enterprises' custom fertilizer application truck in action.

Supers benefit as outsourcing grows

Using outsourcing for various tasks is becoming increasingly attractive to superintendents and golf course operators across the country. Independent contractors can often out-perform the regular maintenance staff in specialized tasks like fertilizer applications and aerification or relatively simple jobs like maintaining the clubhouse grounds. More and more superintendents are employing these services because it saves time, manpower and maintenance costs and provides access to specialized services and new technology that were previously out of reach.

"Outsourcing jobs means there is one more headache that superintendents don't have to worry about," said Terry Buchen, president of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International, a consulting firm based in Williamsburg, Va. "They can make more use of their existing crew. For

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NEW FROM GOLF COURSE NEWS

For a preview of GCN Product News, which will debut in March, see the pullout section, pages 21-28.

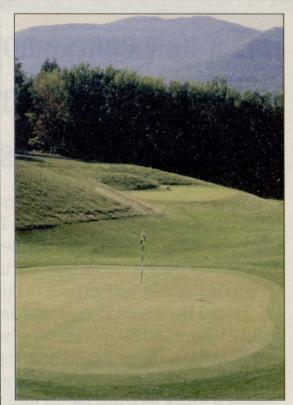
Development management new to the golf industry

By MARK LESLIE

PALM DESERT, Calif. — From the blades of grass on the golf course to the depth of the sewers on the streets of a development, Winchester Development Co. controls what it does as no other company does. Indeed, Winchester is a new breed of company, defining a previously undefined niche: development management.

"We know where everything goes on a golf course project," said Craig Bryant, co-managing partner with John Shaw of Winchester, which has offices here, in

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AMERICA'S (ARGUABLY) OLDEST COURSE ADDS NINE

After 113 years of operating as a nine-hole course, Dorset Field Club in Dorset, Vt., has added another nine holes, designed by Steve Durkee. See story, page 17.

NEWSPAPER

THE REASSESSMENT

October: Internet release of eliminary risk assessment, public comment period opens. December: Public comment

period closes.
February, 2000: Release of revised risk assessment, public comment period opens.
April, 2000: Public comment

period closes.

Comment starts on chlorpyrifos By ANDREW OVERBECK

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its initial risk assessment for chlorpyrifos, an organophosphate commonly used in turf and ornamental applications and known to the golf course industry as Dursban. Under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996, the EPA is systematically reassessing numerous classifications of pesticides

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Chlorpyrifos

and Organopohosphates are one of the first groups to undergo renewed scrutiny. The risk assessment that determines the "risk cup" for chlorpyrifos was released by the EPA in October and is open for a 60-day public comment period.

"This is the most significant change in pesticide laws since the original Federal Insecticide Rodenticide and Fungicide Act of 1972," said Tim Maniscalo, manager of government and public affairs for Dow AgroSciences. "FQPA sets new standards for how pesticides are evaluated and assessed, in particular, the EPA now looks at the aggregate or potential exposure from a pesticide."

The risk cup is quantified by the accumulation of every potential exposure to chlorpyrifos. "If the risk cup runs over, the EPA has to look at mitigating or reducing certain uses," said Maniscalo.

While Maniscalo and other industry leaders agree with the risk cup concept in principal they question how accurately the EPA is measuring these exposures.

"It is easy to measure exposure when it comes to food," said Maniscalo. "But when you look



at non-ag uses it gets hard. There really hasn't been enough good science done to date and the EPA meanwhile has been using worst-case default assumptions to formulate their estimations."

Dow AgroSciences has submitted data to the EPA in order to balance the risk cup, but this data cannot be compiled overnight, said Maniscalo. "There have to be standards, the EPA has to let us know what tests they want us to run," said Maniscalo.

In order to protect the industry and to ensure that sound science and data are being used in the risk assessment process, legislation has been introduced in the House and the Senate. "The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999 would alter the process of FQPA by forcing the EPA to use real data when available," said Allen James, executive director for Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment. "Companies have been providing data to the EPA that the agency has not taken the time to study. These bills have already put significant pressure on the EPA."

According to Jack Housenger, associate director of the special review and re-registration division for the EPA, his department has taken Dow's data on chlorpyrifos into account and feels that the risk assessment is more refined than previous efforts. "We didn't have to use default assumptions as much with this because we had actual data," said Housenger. "We have tried to put out a refined assessment first so that people can see the assumptions that went into it and comment back."

The public comment period is especially important said Maniscalo because it provides superintendents a seat at the negotiating table. "Under statute, the EPA has to consider the risks and the benefits of a particular use," said Maniscalo. "They have already weighed down the risk side of the scale. The best thing for the use community to do now is to let the EPA know why the compound is important, how it is used and what the benefits are. Because if the EPA doesn't hear about benefits they will assume that there aren't any."

Housenger admits that the process of weighing the benefits has changed under FQPA. "We used to look at benefits as well as risks when we were evaluating tolerances," said Housenger. "Now we use benefits to determine which uses are the most beneficial in deciding which uses may need to be modified or canceled to get within the risk cup."

Once the public comment period is complete, the EPA will release a revised risk assessment that will be followed by another 60-day public comment period. The reassessment could result in label modifications, rate reductions and use restrictions.

And chlorpyrifos is just the beginning. "This is one of the first turf and ornamental products to go through the process, said Maniscalo. "All of them will go through FQPA at some point along the way." >



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