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(Impact on the business continued from page 78)

testing. Each test, which includes a complete report from EnviroLogic Resources, costs as much as \$5,000 and detects orthophosphates, nitrates and pesticides. Phipps determined what Thun's tests detect based on the chemical products he uses to maintain the turfgrass.

Overall, Phipps is following environmental stewardship guidelines published by the Oregon GCSA and his own integrated pest management program. When applying pesticides, Phipps considers using new products and whether he wants to introduce a new chemical class into his IPM program. If he did that, he would have to have the water tested for the new class of chemical, which would translate into additional costs.

"My IPM makes me think about what chemicals I use," he says. "It's a back-door way not to use additional pesticides because I might have to pay for the extra test."

In the past, the water tests detected a minute amount of the insecticide Sevin (carbaryl). Phipps applied three pounds of granular carbaryl to an approach (1.7oz. AI/1,000 sq. ft.) one time but stopped using it four years ago because of its tendency to move into the soil. He says sandy soil might have been one reason why the product moved so quickly through the soil and was detected in the adjacent pond. It also could have come from nearby treated residential lawns, which run onto the property. Regardless, there was no direct runoff from the golf course.

Since the testing started, Phipps has ceased using three pesticides: Sevin, Rubigan (but for reasons other than pollution) and Confront, which contains clopyralid, which also had a small detection in the tests. He tries to steer clear of insecticides, but Stone Creek has a crane fly nuisance, so he'll spot treat only the areas that have a history of infestation.

The county wants Phipps to reduce the amount spent on water testing because of the economy. Phipps and the county feel comfortable reducing the testing frequency to once a year because the tests have occurred twice a year for eight years and there haven't been any detections, which are measured in parts per million, in the past two years.

Generally, golf courses are better than many other industries when it comes to pesticide use, Phipps says. He cites Christmas tree growers who spray insecticides on trees with bare soil below them. There's nothing to filter the pesticide, unlike turf on golf courses.

"But nurserymen don't get fingers pointed at them like golf courses do," he says.

Phipps acknowledges many superintendents don't have the budget to implement these water tests. He estimates there are 24 golf courses in Oregon that test water like he does. There are even more testing just for nitrates and orthophosphates. Phipps says this approach is cheaper and probably costs in the hundreds of dollars, not thousands.

"It's a tough nut to crack," he says. GCI