

## Superintendents Association Profiles Average Course

National survey figures recently released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show the superintendent's annual operating budget at a mythical course based on the survey was \$109,501.

Knowing full well before they began that the "average golf course" does not exist, the GCSAA's survey reported some interesting points. The mythical course is an 18-hole private course with more than 400 members. It will be open 10 months of the year with 37,340 rounds of golf played.

The superintendent will manage 168 acres with bluegrass fairways averaging 2.9 acres each, bluegrass tees of 2,460 square feet and bentgrass greens of 5,914 square feet. The annual total budget includes items such as \$7,964 investment in capital equipment, \$59,301 for labor (excluding the superintendent's salary), \$5,068 for fertilizer, \$4,298 for pesticides, \$4,810 for equipment repair and \$1,767 for seed.

A comparison of these recent survey results with those of a similar survey made in 1971 shows a 19.7 percent increase in overall operating budgets while the actual maintained acreage of golf courses decreased 3.85 percent.

As substantiated in other national survey reports, an increasing proportion of golf courses is located in southern areas with a decreasing proportion in western states. Also, greater numbers of golf courses are defined as public, municipal or semi-private while private golf courses are proportionally on the decline although they still comprise the largest number of courses. Survey results were tabulated from responses supplied by more than 1,200 of the association's member golf course superintendents from throughout the United States and Canada.

The national survey figures were released by the GCSAA with the intention of providing its membership general guidelines, and it also has proved to be of interest to the comparison-minded golfing public.

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