

### Maryland Tornado Damages NTEP

**T**he tornado that killed two University of Maryland students in College Park, Md., Sept. 24, also caused an estimated \$41 million damage to the government's largest agricultural research facility in Beltsville, Md. The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is headquartered at the facility. Kevin Morris, NTEP executive director, says



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about 100,000 square feet of greenhouses at the sprawling agricultural research facility were badly damaged.

"We came out of it pretty well, considering," Morris said.

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loaned \$1 million worth of light construction and transportation equipment to the New York City Fire Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Cushman offered 12 Tru-trucks to the New York City Police Department.

Deere created the "John Deere Special Fund for America" to provide the company's employees, retirees, dealers and customers the opportunity to send monetary aid supporting recovery efforts and affected families. The John Deere Foundation launched the fund with a \$250,000 contribution.

"These tragic events have caused great sorrow in our company and throughout the world," said Robert W. Lane, Deere's chairman and CEO.

John Deere equipment is also involved in the recovery efforts. The company's manufacturing operations and dealers donated and delivered Gator utility vehicles, skid steer loaders, tractors and construction equipment for use at the sites where the hijacked jets crashed.

The National Golf Course Owners Association also responded with a relief effort initiative, On Course America — Golf Unites for Disaster Relief. Participating U.S. golf courses across the United States donated proceeds from rounds of golf played during Oct. 19 to 21 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

NGCOA developed the program in response to the desire of its membership to assist the relief efforts in some way. "The NGCOA was overwhelmed by the response from our members to this tragic event," said Mike Hughes, NGCOA executive director.



## Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews [www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER](http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER)

*(All sites are preceded by http:// unless otherwise noted)*

**M**aintained by the University of California at Irvine, the site operates from the school's science library. Believe me, it shows. It has more calculators than the freshman class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

You want to know the pH of your water? No problem. The amount of water your soil can hold? It's here. Want to find out how much erosion you can expect around your pond banks after a particularly bad storm? There's a calculator to help you. The amount of information this site provides you is unbelievable.

Since this issue of *Golfdom* focuses on irrigation, I focused my attention on the site's water calculators. It allows you to cal-

culate the pipe size you'll need for your irrigation system (a useful calculation, whether you're installing a new one or renovating an old one), evapotranspiration rates and other water-related questions.

The calculator that held my attention the longest was the Penman calculator for water use by grass. You enter elements like the amount of sunshine, air temperature, humidity and windspeed into the appropriate fields. (It also gives you options. For example, if you don't know the amount of sunshine on a given day, you can enter the time of year instead.) Then you hit the "Calculate" button. In an instant, the site tells you how many inches of water the grass will use on that day under the weather con-

ditions you entered. It's quick, easy to navigate and will help you use your irrigation system more efficiently.

I realize that no scientific equation will ever adequately capture the nuances of golf course management, but [www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER](http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER) gives you tools that will help you do your job more effectively.

*Golfdom's managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr. compiles Scanning the Web and needs a calculator to add one plus one. You can reach him at [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com) with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.*