

**A**nybody want *free* integrated pest management and best management practices documents? Yes, I did say *free*.

Our industry's sense of brotherhood is one of its most defining attributes. There aren't many businesses where you can call up your competition when you have a problem and ask for help in handling it. I'm pretty sure that Microsoft doesn't call up Apple when its people can't figure out a technical glitch. But with our industry, that's exactly what we do. We help each other in order to protect and advance our profession.

It's with this same sense of camaraderie that the sponsor-supported Web site [www.GreenGolfUSA.com](http://www.GreenGolfUSA.com) was launched, assisting superintendent in their efforts of environmental stewardship. The cornerstone of the program is the IPM and BMP generator tools, which enable anyone to create and print their own customized IPM program and BMP documentation — *free* of charge.

GreenGolfUSA.com is the culmination of a collaboration between EnviroLogic Resources, the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Western Washington GCSA and the Northwest Turfgrass Association that began in 2006 to make these essential environmental tools available to superintendents at no expense.

Early in my environmental infancy, I attempted to write an IPM plan and BMP documents for a course I managed. When finished, quite frankly, they were rather useless and incomplete in several key areas. So I contracted out the project to "experts" to make sure the documents were both viable and complete.

I remember paying several thousand dollars for the 18-page document that, at the time, seemed to cover all the environmental bases. I also remember thinking that smaller-budget courses couldn't really afford access to these critically important guidelines for environmental stewardship.

It's nice to see times have changed.

Out of pure curiosity, and never being one to take things at face value, I went and registered with [GreenGolfUSA.com](http://GreenGolfUSA.com) so I could test-drive these online tools for myself and provide a

## Get IPM and BMPs on Paper — for Free

BY CHRISTOPHER S. GRAY SR.



I APPLAUD THE  
WE'RE-ALL-IN-THIS-  
TOGETHER TYPE OF  
MENTALITY SHOWN  
BY THE GROUPS  
INVOLVED WITH  
THIS PROJECT

sort of a Consumer Reports-type of report you.

It took me less than two hours total to enter all of my course's information, which was incredibly detailed, but fairly easy to enter because of the format of drop-down menus and checking boxes that the program utilizes. The meticulous program walked me through each area asking for relevant information about the particular practices of my operation. Believe me, it missed nothing.

The areas covered included specific areas of maintained turf, natural and aquatic areas, cultural practices, specific types of pests present, action thresholds, pesticide-use specifications, all the way to detailed descriptions of the maintenance facility. When I finished, the Web site generated a PDF document of my customized plan and e-mailed it to me within minutes. The 30-plus page document is unbelievably comprehensive and just as good, if not better, than what I'm currently using. And it's *free*.

What's great is I can go back into the site, call up my program, and make changes in accordance with any conditions and practices that change within my operation. Then I can get a new PDF copy of my plans sent to me. And that's *free*, too.

I applaud the we're-all-in-this-together type of mentality shown by the groups involved with this project, especially the sponsors. It's refreshing to see them support a real-world project that has a direct impact on superintendents, regardless of their facility type and budget size, by offering tangible and needed results. From this superintendent, I say thank you.

By the way, it's *free*.

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*Gray Sr. is superintendent and general manager of Marvel Golf Club in Benton, Ky. His column specializes in environmental issues.*