

# Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



## // DROUGHT

### CALIFORNIA DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY



On this winter's day, Californians are dreaming about rain. Not that it's doing them any good.

"We're on our 53rd day without any rain," sighs Billy Hausch, superintendent the Nicklaus Club Monterey in Monterey, Calif. The drought in California has caused Governor Jerry Brown to declare a statewide emergency. Superintendents are gearing up for what promises to be a challenging year.

Normally the wettest part of the year, Hausch is one of many superintendents left in a lurch from this unusually dry weather. Other states are in the same boat — federal agriculture officials designated parts of 11 states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah — as disaster areas, citing the economic strain this drought is putting on farmers.

"This takes a coming together of all the people of California to deal with this serious and prolonged event of nature," Gov. Brown told reporters in San Francisco. "Hopefully it'll rain eventually. But in the meantime, we have to do our part."

For now, Gov. Brown is asking — nicely — for Californians to do their part. If the drought continues much

longer, he won't be asking.

"We have X amount of water allocated to us from wells each year," says Hausch. However, this year they may be looking for more water before the year's out. "We may be begging (for water) by the time it's all done."

One additional problem Hausch is facing is the use of sodium rich recycled water. For Hausch, the extra sodium found in the water can be a problem. When used on the course, the sodium from the water can create small build ups called "sour spots." "You see pockets build up in our fairways and it's no good."

If the rain doesn't show soon, Hausch worries about many busted budgets for area courses, especially those who use municipal water supplies. "We only pay for electricity to move the water, but not the water itself," says Hausch. "It's going to be a tough year for everyone down here."

## // ALL THE BUZZ

### ODA DETERMINES CAUSE OF BUMBLEBEE DEATHS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced the findings of an investigation into the deaths of bumblebees at multiple sites in Oregon. They concluded that product misapplication was the cause.

The ODA issued a temporary rule in June, restricting the use of products containing the active ingredients dinotefuran and imidacloprid in the wake of four separate incidents. One of which involved a foliar application of Valent U.S.A. Corporation product, Safari insecticide, to European linden trees during bloom. This was a violation of label instructions.

The ODA report determined that the bumblebee deaths connected to the use of Safari, were the direct result of a private commercial applicator "performing a pesticide application in a faulty, careless, or negligent manner."

The applicator company at fault has been issued civil penalties totaling \$1,665. The ODA requested that Valent include new language on Safari labels. The updated labels will be seen on March 1, 2014.

## // HONORABLE MENTION

### GWAA HONORS ROBERT ALLENBY

The Golf Writers Association of America have selected PGA Tour member Robert Allenby as the 2014 Charlie Bartlett Award winner. This award goes to a playing professional who makes unselfish contributions for the betterment of society. The Australian Allenby has raised over \$26 million over the last 23 years through the Robert Allenby Golf Day and Gala Dinner. Inspired by the death of a close friend when he was 13, Allenby has been dedicated to raising money to help children with cancer throughout his career. The award will be given on April 9 in Augusta, Ga., the night before the Masters begins.

Past winners include Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Tiger Woods, K.J. Choi, Lorena Ochoa, Ernie Els, Tom Watson and Payne Stewart.