

COMPLIANCE AUDIT KIT

The GCSAA/Hall-Kimbrell Compliance Assistance Program: Guidance and Direction in a Complex World of Environmental Regulations.

President George Bush has been emphatic in challenging his newly appointed environmental leaders to "chart a course of environmental activism". Bush indicated recently that he was not only interested in pressing civil suits, but that criminal prosecutions would be a part of his drive to lean up the environment.

Every industry must carefully analyze its practices to assure strict adherence to guidelines and demonstrate "moral" responsibility in protecting workers and the environment.

Golf course superintendents, as a group, have long recognized the seriousness of the health and environmental issues associated with modern golf course operations. The Golf course Superintendents Association of America, however, has recognized the need to take aggressive measure to stay ahead of the wave of environmental concern.

With that in mind, GCSAA recently introduced a member

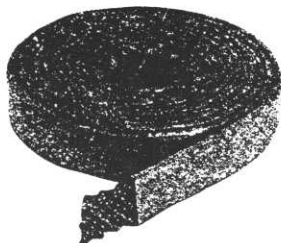
benefit program with Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services, Inc., one of the nation's leading environmental engineering and analytical firms, to help superintendents respond. The GCSAA/Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Compliance Assistance Program provides golf course superintendents a means to identify areas of operations affected by environmental regulations and identify changes that should be implemented to achieve compliance.

"This is an important program for every golf course in American because no course can afford NOT to assess every area of its operations." said Dennis D. Lyon, CGCS, GCSAA president. "Our main goal is for superintendents to develop a high degree of industry involvement, but there's also a very real payoff in dollars that superintendents will realize in improved management efficiency and reduced liability exposure." Lyon added that one fine or incident would vastly overshadow the nominal cost of the self audit.

The self-audit package gives superintendents a unique opportunity to act on their own. If a regulatory agency was to evaluate the same issues, violations would be reported and dealt with through legal channels. The self audit allows superintendents to evaluate their practices on their own and make modifications accordingly.

The Hall-Kimbrell/GCSAA Self-Audit Package consists of a 30-minute videotape program that outlines eight com-

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mon areas of regulation and the regulatory self audit.

The self audit is a book containing more than 500 questions that allows the superintendent to easily and concisely report his practices in an answer booklet.

Completion of the self audit generally requires about eight hours of a superintendent's time. Most have found it better to split the time over a week or so rather than attempt to move through it from start to finish in one session.

The answer booklet is forwarded to Hall-Kimbrell, where it is scanned by a computer to summarize and sort the data provided by the superintendent.

Hall-Kimbrell scientists and environmental experts then review the data and compile a detailed report on the course's practices and how well they meet the applicable regulations. The report also contains concise overviews of regulations, phone numbers and addresses for federal and state agencies that issue and enforce the regulations and information on state programs that vary significantly from federal requirements.

The response report not only tells superintendents if they are in compliance, it also helps them evaluate procedures and management practices.

The self audit is not a fault-finding tool, but rather a fact-finding tool, explains Hall-Kimbrell Project Manager Steve Wharton. "People may have natural tendency to provide what they expect are the 'desired responses' rather than the honest answers. The value of the package is in the superintendent's review of the resulting reports based on actual situations."

The self-audit and regulatory compliance efforts are not a "one-shot" effort. Existing regulations are often modified and stress periodic review of management practices as new regulations continue to be introduced.

One of GCSAA's considerations in selecting Hall-Kimbrell was the firm's commitment to an ongoing effort. The self audit serves as a prerequisite for follow-up services that include annual update procedures. By periodically updating the audit, it becomes a dynamic management tool for continual evaluation of practices, taking into account new products, regulations and training requirements.

The entire program and its follow-up mechanisms designed to help superintendents become better managers. For more information or details on ordering the self-audit package, contact the GCSAA Membership Department.

THE EXTENSION LINE

Hole Notes welcomes the addition of Bob Mugaas of the University of Minnesota Extension Service as a regular contributor. As Hennepin County Extension Agent, Mr. Mugaas will compile various articles related to the golf field for our information. Bob is an excellent source for answers to many questions on horticultural problems. He may be reached at 542-1420. Written requests should be sent to:

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This month's articles cover Tree Fertilization, Rhizosphaera Needlecast, Lyme Disease and other offers from the Extension Service.

RHIZOSPHAERA NEEDLECAST CAN BE CONFUSED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

by **Cynthia L. Ash**
Assistant Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology
Minnesota Extension Service

Rhizosphaera needlecast, caused by the fungus *Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii*, can seriously damage spruce trees. The needle discoloration caused by this disease can be confused with the discoloration caused by adverse environmental conditions.

First let's talk about Rhizosphaera needlecast, a fungus attacking individual needles and turning them a reddish-brown. Newly developing needles are susceptible and become infected in May and June but do not discolor until the next June. The fungus produces reproductive structures on infected needles and visible under a magnifying glass or hand lens. These structures are black and fuzzy and replace the white stomata (tiny spores) on the needles. These structures will help to distinguish this from other problems.

Needlecast develops first on the lower branches of the tree and works its way up the tree. The tips of the branches are almost always green. Yet, environmental desiccation (winter injury, sunscald, drought, etc.) affects the most exposed portions of the tree, that is the tips of the branches and the needles on the top side of the branch. Needles in this area of the tree turn brown and fall off. When conditions are severe the branch will be killed. You can check for this by bending the branch, if it snaps easily it's dead. Rhizosphaera needlecast does