

# GCSAA Board Approves '97 Legislative/Regulatory Agenda

At its pre-conference meeting, GCSAA's board of directors approved a new legislative/regulatory agenda. Developed by the government relations committee, the agenda identifies current government issues that affect golf course superintendents and describes GCSAA's plan of action for addressing each issue.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

### EPA Budget (enforcement)

EPA was given additional funding to implement the new pesticide and drinking-water laws passed in 1996. Congress will oversee implementation of the new laws. There is a threat that these activities will distract from lower priority regulatory activities, but there is not a consensus on whether the existing level of regulation and enforcement activity

by the EPA is good or bad for superintendents.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on EPA spending and priorities and encourage compliance with laws regardless of the level of EPA enforcement.

### Endangered Species

Enforcement of the Endangered Species Act has had an impact on landowners, and reports on its effectiveness in preserving species have varied. The proposed solutions would alter the ESA and generally allow more flexibility in ESA enforcement strategies. Superintendents report that laws regulating the protection of habitat have been burdensome to golf course development.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on proposals to

amend the Endangered Species Act, inform members about opportunities for grassroots action and provide information about compliance. The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses will serve to answer inquiries about GCSAA's position on endangered species, and reports about members' efforts to provide or preserve habitats for endangered or threatened species will be publicized.

### Wetlands

Legislative proposals on wetlands would offer more alternatives to landowners with wetland areas that need protection. These proposals included altering the federal definition of wetlands to include fewer land areas and applying the "takings" approach to compensating landowners affected by wetlands restrictions. Regulatory activity has included a proposal to eliminate "nationwide" wetlands permits that streamlined the approval process, and business is opposing this change. Many of these changes could impact golf course renovation and development.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on proposals to amend wetlands laws, inform members about opportunities for grassroots action, communicate an association position as appropriate and provide compliance information. The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses will serve to answer inquiries about GCSAA's position on wetlands, and reports about members' efforts to provide or preserve wetlands will be publicized.

### Pollution/Runoff

Proposed amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) did not address nonpoint source pollution rules affecting golf courses, but issues may arise during the implementation phase.

*(Continued on Page 28)*

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# Agenda—

(Continued from Page 16)

**Plan of Action:** The Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) coalition will monitor legislation and regulations affecting pesticide manufacturers and users groups, including GCSAA.

## Environmental Audits

Federal legislation expanding EPA's 1995 policy is expected, but action will likely be delayed while the impact of state programs is evaluated. The EPA opposes establishing a legal privilege for audit information, but supports immunity from finds for entities that report federal violations discovered during voluntary environmental audits, as long as corrective action is taken.

**Plan of Action:** GCSAA will monitor and report on federal environmental audit legislation. Also, it will continue to work directly — as well as through the Ad Hoc Group for Environmental Audit and Disclosure Legislation — in support of comprehensive environmental audit legislation.

## Methyl Bromide

Efforts to pass legislation that would extend the deadlines relating to the phase-out of methyl bromide are expected to continue.

**Plan of Action:** GCSAA will monitor bromide legislation and inform members about opportunities to communicate their views.

## Wage and Hour

Legislation that would affect overtime/compensatory pay and flexible time is expected to resurface, although there is strong opposition.

**Plan of Action:** GCSAA will monitor and report on significant proposed amendments to wage and hours laws.

## Regulatory Reform

Congressional veto power over new regulations to protect small business was adopted in 1996. Some elements of the FIFRA amendments (Food Quality Protection Act) also require conducting cost-benefit analyses. These trends are expected to continue.

**Plan of Action:** GCSAA will monitor regulatory reform proposals and work with the Alliance for Reasonable Regulation and other allies that support improvements in the regulatory process.

## Immigration

Immigration reforms to increase penalties for hiring illegal immigrants may resurface, but are not high priority. The transition to pink cards seems to have proceeded without need for further government action.

**Plan of Action:** GCSAA will monitor and report on proposed changes to immigration laws relevant to the golf industry.

## Tort Reform/Junk Science

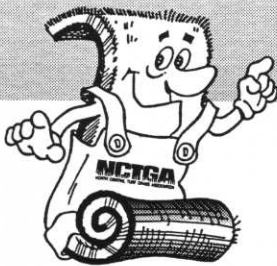
Proposed reforms of tort law, which governs personal  
(Continued on Page 29)

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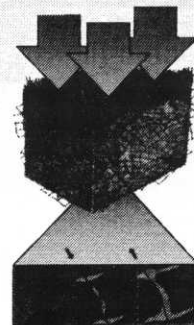
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# Agenda—

(Continued from Page 28)

injury lawsuits, are designed to reduce frivolous lawsuits and runaway jury verdicts. Product liability reform has been a topic of legislation in Congress for more than 10 years. Major opponents have left Congress, and efforts to adopt reforms are expected to continue. Some action on the use of "junk science" in legal actions is possible because of increased publicity on the topic.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on tort reform initiatives.

## Health Care

With the adoption of some important health insurance reforms in 1996, Congress is now expected to focus on Medicare reform.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor health insurance reform proposals and inform members about opportunities to communicate their views.

## Research/NTEP

Congress controls agency research funding and priorities through the budget process.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor relevant budgetary proposals affecting research and directly lobby and/or coordinate grassroots lobbying as necessary to preserve research funding.

## Emissions

The Clear Air Act is a priority in Congress this year, but proposals are likely to address heavy industry and are not

expected to have a significant impact on the golf industry.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on regulatory developments.

## Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

While golf courses were exempt under WPS regulations, an internal EPA interpretive guidance workgroup determined that golf course nurseries and sod farms would be subject to the WPS. In response to GCSAA's direct and grassroots lobbying of Congress, EPA has reportedly developed a policy statement that confirms exemption of all areas of the golf course from the WPS, but other EPA priorities have delayed final action.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will continue to seek full exemption of golf course operations. A federal grassroots campaign will continue to operate to persuade EPA to change its interpretation. If necessary, GCSAA will investigate filing a petition with the EPA to get a favorable interpretation.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Guidelines developed to implement the ADA as applied to golf courses are pending. A formal proposed rule is not expected until 1998.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will participate in guidelines negotiations with government agencies and representatives will attend meetings and provide input on implementation strategies. A white paper will be available to superintendents to provide guidance in the interim.

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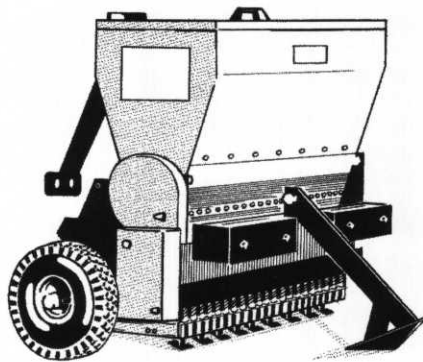
### Verti-Seed Model 004.804

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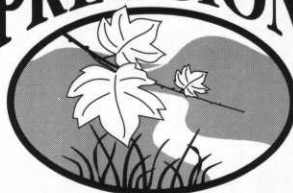
Length	24"
Width	46"
Height	34"
Working Width	34"
Spacing between pellets	1½"
Cutting depth	0-1¼"
Weight with weights	910 lb
Hopper capacity	3.35 ft³
Seed density	Fully adjustable for any type of speed
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Ground speed	Up to 6 mph
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Hopper capacity	3.35 ft³
Seed density	Fully adjustable for any type of speed
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PTO speed linkage	540 rpm Cat 2, 3 point link
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# Where Should I Go to College?

A new GCSAA publication, "Guide to Colleges," can help students and their parents answer this question. Available in June, the guide offers information on 2- and 4-year turf-related educational programs.

The guide is divided into four sections:

- Section one details the golf course superintendent's profession and relationship to the golf industry.
- Section two describes a sample curriculum outline for both 2- and 4-year programs.
- Section three is organized alphabetically by schools and offers an in-depth profile of each institution. Each profile includes the institution's name, geographical location by city and state, degrees offered, brief description and "fast facts" about the undergraduate program, special features of the program, educational facilities and contact information.

Section four is a geographical listing of all national and international turf-related programs that GCSAA has on file. The listing includes 1-year certificate programs, correspondence courses and short courses.

To select the program that best fits their needs, students and parents also find helpful the information on faculty, special research and laboratory facilities, the types of degrees conferred, the number of hours required for a degree, internships required, career placement assistance, tuition costs and much more.

The "Guide to Colleges" will be distributed free to all participating 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education. It will also be available for \$30 through the GCSAA bookstore.

## Agenda—

(Continued from Page 29)

### Noise

Experts advise that stricter regulations on workers' exposure to noise can be expected. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is working on new recommendations that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) may adopt through rulemaking.

Plan of Action: GCSAA will monitor and report on regulatory developments and work with the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute as appropriate.

## Coming Next Month:

The State Legislation/Regulation  
section of the 1997  
Legislative/Regulatory Agenda.

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