

UPDATE

GCSAA opposes FIFRA

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, as part of a national coalition opposing passage of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Reform Act (H.R. 3818), has authorized the National Club Association to speak in its behalf in opposing it.

The act contains provisions which would increase the liability of pesticide users in cases of contamination of land and water supply as well as other limitations. If enacted, the provisions would increase golf course and administrative costs and deter new golf course development, according to the coalition.

Specifically, some ramifications of the act would include:

- Only certified applicators would apply restricted use pesticides
- Private applicators would have to keep records of all sprayings
- Any individual could sue a FIFRA violator
- EPA would have to regulate application to protect local residents

An economical alternative

Would you like to play golf in half the time and on half the land it takes to play a normal game? If Jack Nicklaus' "short ball" idea comes into play, you'll be able to do just that.

Nicklaus feels so strongly about the idea, his new course in the Cayman Islands, scheduled to open this fall, was specifically designed for the new ball that travels only half the distance of regular balls. The Cayman course can be played as a 3,338-yard par 72 by short ball users.

Golf Digest reports the new one-piece balls are made of a plastic material that has a varying density through its cross section. It has a 10 compression and an initial velocity of about 200 feet per second, where a normal ball's velocity is 250.

The \$1,000 price tag per experimental ball will have to drop considerably, though, before the average golfer could ever test the new idea.

"We know there will be a monstrous amount of skepticism about the idea," says Bob Cupp, Nicklaus' chief course designer. "But it's not a commercial endeavor. We're not trying to change golf—just provide an economical alternative."

Father of 18

The next time you find yourself scrambling for some golf trivia at a party, try this one.

How many courses other than the original in Scotland are named St. Andrews?

The answer is 18.

None, however, offer the same type layout, only an occasional hole that beckons back to the 1552 Scottish course, the birthplace of the game.

ten percent of retail mowers sold are electric. Briggs hopes to gain market share in the electric motor business.

Media in the Twin Cities have revealed Northrup King's plans to leave its historic headquarters and warehouse in Minneapolis. NK's research farm outside Minneapolis was sold last fall. Turf research will move to Mt. Joy, PA, and Tangent, OR. NK's packet seed business is looking for a more southerly location. The company's headquarters may remain in the Minneapolis area.

Speaking of seed, Leah Brillman, turf breeder for Jacklin Seed, Post Falls, ID, and her husband are expecting their first child in about five months.

SEED

Loft's Field Day features tall fescue

Even though demand is still outpacing production, Dr. Richard Hurley of Lofts Seed, Bound Brook, NJ, says there will be enough turf type tall fescue to meet demands this year.

That was some of the good news about 95 sod producers, lawn care professionals and researchers heard at the seventh annual Lofts Field Day, held in June at the company's



Dr. Rich Hurley explains a type of turf disease to attendees at the Field Day.

research farm in Martinsville, NJ.

Hurley believes the turf type tall fescues is the "grass of the future."

"Rutgers is introducing new varieties with greater stand density, better color and good shade tolerance not to mention drought tolerance," said Hurley. "We are continually looking to improve brown patch, pythium, and leaf spot resistance as well."

Hurley also said the turf type tall fescues will come on strong in the transition zone and even overtake the use of Kentucky bluegrasses.

"By the end of the decade, we will have varieties that surpass Rebel and
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