

Superintendents taken out of the closet

■ The golf course superintendent's contribution and importance to the game has been in the public eye during the 1986 pro golf season. ESPN-TV's "Inside the PGA Tour" featured a segment on golf course superintendents in a recent broadcast. Reported by PGA agronomist Bill Buchanan, the feature noted the superintendent's job is to keep a proper balance between what is best for the turf on his golf course and what is best for the golfer.

Claud Corrigan, editor of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendent newsletter, notes: "The show was just one more example of the excellent media coverage superintendents have been getting, which may indicate that (our) public relations efforts are paying off."

Additionally, superintendent Peter Smith of Shinnecock Hills GC appeared on "Good Morning America" during this year's U.S. Open to acquaint millions with the super's role.

Bad news for pesticides

■ Amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) have now been approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee. In June, the House Agriculture Committee had approved a similar bill. That means the bills for stronger pesticide controls need only be approved by both houses of Congress to become law.

The amendments would accelerate the EPA's program for retesting older pesticides, would establish new health and safety standards to protect against contaminated drinking water, and would require companies to complete thorough health and safety standards on minor ingredients in their pesticides.

Long-term impact on the green industry? Fewer pesticides with higher price tags. Not good news.

And more bad news

■ In a related development, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 329 to 4 to strengthen the law protecting public health and the environment from chemical pesticides, according to the *New York Times*. The legislation comes in the wake of a series of biased media reports on the risks of pesticide exposure.

If passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President, the bill would accelerate the retesting of more than 600 herbicides and would require the retesting of all chemicals registered before 1972 to be completed over the next nine years.

The bottom line: the amendment may be doomed to failure because it does not provide sufficient funds to enable the EPA to meet retesting deadlines.

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