



J. Michael Poellot: superintendents must keep courses environmentally safe, use environmentally safe products.

GOLF

Golf courses can add to environment

LAS VEGAS — Golf courses and the environment go hand-in-hand, according to J. Michael Poellot, who spoke on the subject at the International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

"With proper design, construction and maintenance, golf courses cannot only coexist in our increasingly fragile environment, but they can enhance it," said Poellot, president of JMP Golf Design Group in Saratoga, Calif. "Golf courses actually help preserve our precious open space.

"For every 150-acre golf course that turns the area into a lush rolling landscape of trees, turfgrass and wildflowers, there are 5,000 acres of land being paved in concrete or asphalt."

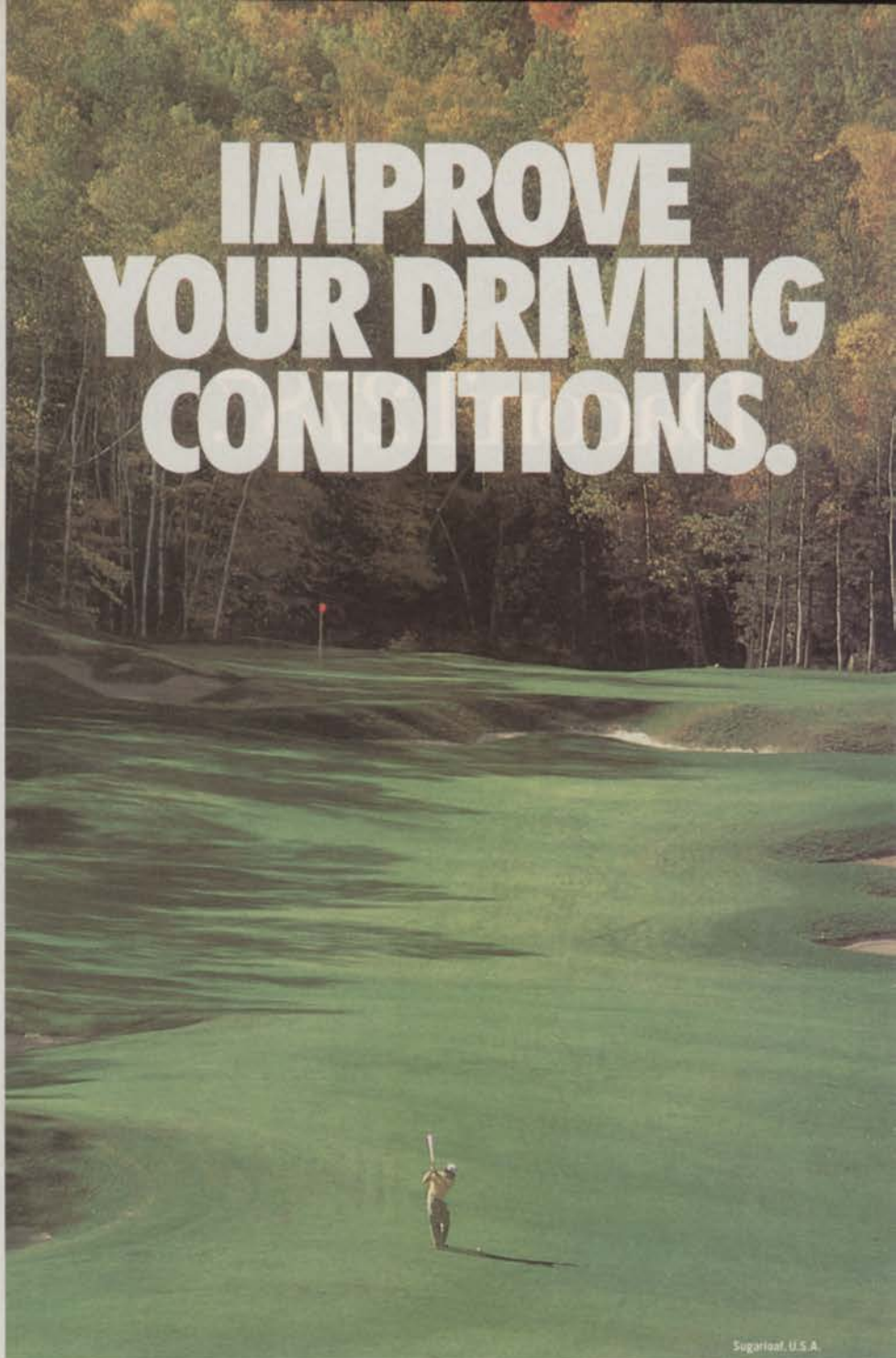
Poellot pointed to the environmentally safe use of pesticides as being one of the primary issues facing the golf industry.

"New technologies and state-of-the-art methods of design, construction and maintenance have made it possible to insure that almost no chemicals either leach into the groundwater or run off into surface water supplies," he noted.

"In addition to pesticide application, golf course superintendents play a key role in insuring that golf courses are environmentally safe. Without a program that maintains the course to the highest environmental standards, design and construction efforts will be useless."

Poellot concludes his speech by calling for industry standards that will become recognized worldwide as a "certification of acceptable environmentally-sensitive design, construction and maintenance." He said, "It's our responsibility to make golf available and affordable for future generations. And that means coexisting with the environment." □

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