

EPA is happy with 'friendliness' of golf courses

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official believes the golf industry is doing "a number of positive things" when it comes to being kind to the environment, but must continue to make golf courses "environmentally friendly places."

Lewis Crampton, an agency associate administrator, says cooperative efforts by the EPA and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) are a sign that golf is "on the right course."

"It's only natural that golf course superintendents be leaders in environmental stewardship," says GCSAA president Stephen Cadenelli, CGCS. Cadenelli says the golf industry has worked for a number of years to insure that the public and government understand how golf courses are managed to prevent negative effects on the environment.

Apparently, someone hasn't been paying attention.

The latest EPA campaign involves improving what it believes to be improper use of the nation's wetlands. John Studt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says existing wetland areas should be integrated into golf course plans when possible.

"Incorporating these areas as open green space and hazards is something you should strive for," says Studt, who also says the wetlands permit process should be streamlined. "Streamlining the program and making it run better, and getting decisions for applicants sooner is something we are trying to strive for," says Studt.

Crampton spoke at a seminar entitled "Golf Course Management, Government Regulations and the Future."

Dogs endangered by lawn herbicide, report states

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Cancer Institute has released yet another study incriminating the lawn herbicide 2,4-D as being a cancer-causing agent—this time in dogs.

The report said that dogs were twice as likely to develop a cancer called lymphoma

if their owners sprayed or sprinkled the herbicide on their lawns four or more times per year.

"The study also suggests that the potential health/hazards of human exposure to 2,4-D at home warrant further study," said Howard M. Hayes, the primary author of the study.

Earlier studies by the National Cancer Institute had noted "strong links" between

non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in humans and 2,4-D. But those studies were refuted by subsequent reports commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ontario (Canada) Minister of the Environment.

News of the NCI's study was reported by the major news services and the national newspaper *USA Today*. Industry professionals say the report was poorly researched.

Bentgrass gains popularity on public courses

AKRON, Ohio—A newly-opened public golf course in Ohio is attracting attention with its bentgrass fairways.

"It's unusual for a public golf course in this area," says Ed Breckenridge, superintendent at Raintree Country Club between Canton and Akron.

The club opened in July in the midst of a drought that plagued much of the region.

"We didn't have much of a problem at all" keeping the fairways and the rest of the course in great playing shape, says

Breckenridge. A 400-head Toro Irrigation system provided adequate water.

The tees and fairways are planted with Pennway bentgrass, which is mowed at a height of 3/4ths inch by Ransomes 350-D mowers. Pennlinks greens are mowed at 3/16th inch with Toro triplexes.

Turf-type tall fescues are used in some roughs. This will help produce a tall-grass "heather" look that's popular overseas, says Breckenridge. The course also has dunes along the lines of those found in

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