

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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England, Scotland and Ireland.

"The only problem down the road will be clippings and susceptibility to disease." A finely-tuned maintenance program is likely to eliminate those concerns, he points out.

A broadleaf weed killer from Lesco is sprayed on the bent, and "everything that gets irrigation water is fertilized" to insure lush growth.

Dirt cart paths are being converted to concrete, and construction of a 20,000 square-foot clubhouse will be finished by next March. The building of 115 homes surrounding the course begins in the spring.

—James E. Guyette

USDA busy looking for scale controls

MADISON, Va.—The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA is working to reduce the occurrence of euonymus scale on landscape plants.

The euonymus scale is a sucking insect found throughout the temperate zone, wherever euonymus species are grown. Its hard shell makes it virtually immune to pesticides. Some miscible oils have been successful against the scale during early spring, according to Ray Brush, a member of the project's advisory committee. He is also the American Association of Nurserymen's consultant on quarantine procedures.

Brush says infested plants will exhibit a white residue on stems, which is actually the shell of the male euonymus.

A scale feeding predator, a ladybug-type beetle, and a small parasite which attacks the scale under its shell are to be used in the initial stages of research.

"Both have shown great promise," says Brush.

He adds that those and other biological control predators will be nurtured at the inspection service's National Biological Control Laboratory in Niles, Mich. Federal and state departments of agriculture, state experimental stations and industry will participate.

"We're trying to find out which of the species of euonymus and which cultivar are being used in various states, and what sort of scale problems they are having with it," explains Brush.

Brush is busy distributing a four-question survey which seeks information from the field regarding the degree of euonymus infestation around the country.

To participate in the survey, contact Ray Brush at P.O. Box 266, Madison, VA 22727; (703) 948-6436.

Correction

■ Two items in our August issue's "Fall Fertilization Guide" require clarification.

The photo caption on page 32 should read: "Fertilizing less than 30 days before a frost may result in low temperature kill..."

On page 33, under the subhead, "Rates and ratios," the amount of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. should read 1/2 lb., not 1-1/2 lb. actual nitrogen. Likewise, the amount of actual nitrogen suggested on page 34 should read 1/2 lb.

We apologize for any confusion caused by the mis-information.

'Fingerprinting' could help in disease diagnosis

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—A University of Tennessee researcher says a cheaper, more accurate, safer and faster method for providing "fingerprinting" has been developed, and its application to turfgrass cultivars "would be a major contribution to grass genetics in this century."

Principal investigator Dr. Lloyd Callahan, a professor at the school's ornamental horticulture and landscape design department, says the DNA Amplification Fingerprinting (DAF) method developed here should have a number of far-ranging applications, not the least of which is the means of legally establishing genetic individualism for new strains of grasses. The method could be used to protect turfgrass breeders from commercial theft of new varieties.

Fingerprinting is also useful in disease diagnosis and breeding.

Callahan has written that DAF will be adapted to both cool- and warm-season grasses and primary cultivars, and is being applied to bermudagrass, bahiagrass, buffalograss, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass and zoysia, bentgrass, fine fescues, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and tall fescue.

More than 200 other turfgrass cultivar samples will be tested using a similar DAF method also under study by University of Tennessee researchers.

Callahan and researchers have already performed the service for about a dozen companies and also provided a fingerprint for a cultivar to document that it could pass through a state which had questioned its compliance with quarantine laws.

Florida nurseries unaffected by bad batches of fungicide

ORLANDO, Fla.—Florida's environmental horticulture industry still has an ample supply of nursery plants available, despite damage caused by a contaminated fungicide which appears to affected an estimated 400 nurseries statewide.

Earl Wells of the Florida Nurserymen and Grower's Association, said that the 400 nurseries represent about six percent of the state's 6,939 non-citrus nurseries.

Wells said that price adjustments have not skyrocketed due to the plant losses.

"DuPont Agrichemical Co. officials continue to research a specific cause for the plant damage, but to date have not release any positive findings," the FNAG said in a press release.

Saving tax money by leaving clippings

PASSAIC COUNTY, N.J.—County officials here have begun a public relations campaign to convince residents to leave their grass clippings in the ground. Their ploy is to play up the taxpayer savings: \$2.4 million in annual landfill and transport fees.

The Troy-Bilt Co. of Troy, N.Y.—one of a few companies now making either a mulching mower or attachment—is getting in on the action by offering technical and hardware assistance.

The "Grass...Cut It and Leave It" message is to leave grass clippings on the lawn or cut the lawns with mulching mowers, the green industry's newest piece of environmentally friendly equipment.

Troy-Bilt has donated one mulching mower to each of the counties 16 municipalities, to be used as demo-models.