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The Bill Clinton summer vacation jokes have been on the rise for quite a while spread near, far and to other places. Henry Coffin's favorite goes like this: Q: Why did the President decide to vacation on Martha's Vineyard? A: He couldn't afford Nantucket.

Coffin makes it clear that he intends no irreverence be attached to the above oneliner. It's just his way of relating to whoever's interested that life in Siasconset, one of 12 towns on Nantucket, doesn't come cheap. You name it and it costs more to get it there than on the mainland. Which is Cape Cod or more specifically, Hyannis, a two and onehalf hour boat ride from Nantucket Island just in case you can't come up with the air fare.

"Come to think of it, taking the boat's no bargain, either," Coffin said from his home is Siasconset. "Everytime I put my truck on and off it for the round trip to get supplies, equipment and other things it costs one hundred and fifty dollars. So, you might say the cost of living here knows nothing except the high ground."

Sankaty Head some kind of place

for Henry Coffin

Siasconset always has been home to Coffin whose family has operated the town's public golf course for almost all of it 99-year existence. However, he leaves that chore to brother Robert. His job is a step up on the golf course ladder or head superintendent at The Sankaty Head Golf Club, a 500-member private layout that bulges with activity during the prime summer season.

October 1993

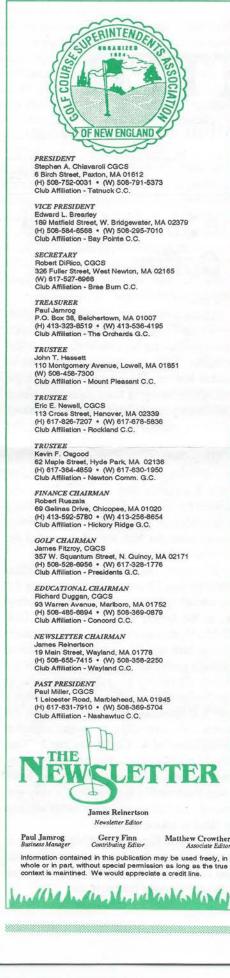
Henry, who happens to be Henry III in a line of distinguished Henry Coffins to have made Siasconset their home and business address for over a century, has had Sankaty Head under his wing since 1979. It's a very special place for him, sort of the end of the rainbow in his superintendent's career.

He started thinking of that bright future when he was 12 years old and working the maintenance beat under his father, Henry, Jr., at the family course (Siasconset Golf Club). There was a plethora of chores available to him and he rant its gamut -- from mowing greens to caddying for some of the golfers who didn't have the wherewithal to join Sankaty Head.

"I suppose I could have stayed on the course and eventually taken over the general management of it," Coffin disclosed. "That job always had been a given, going to whoever was next in line on the family tree. Since I was interested in the business, it only was natural that I take over for my father when he decided to take it easy."

However, Henry III had bigger things in mind, so he packed his bags, his ambitions and headed for Stockbridge and stab at that school's two-year course in turf

continued on next page



#### continued from page 1

management. He thinks it probably was the first time he left the island for any extended period of time. At that time, too, he might have been leaving it for good. But after completing his Stockbridge studies, Coffin hit the assistant super trail and eventually it led back to Siasconset where he accepted that title with the thought of gaining as much experience and knowledge as it took to prepare him for his own head post.

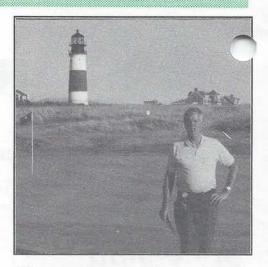
That opportunity came in 1966 when Coffin interviewed for and landed the superintendent's job at the Indian Meadow Country Club in Westboro. It turned out to be a 10-year stint before another move took him to the Chestnut Hill Country Club. Then, two years later, Henry III was home again as the man in charge at Sankaty Head.

"It's almost 25 years since I made that last career move," Coffin noted that he was closing in on a milestone. "This is a busy, busy place in the summer because of all the visitors and those people who spend two or three months here in their vacation homes. That's a lot of members (500). Not only that, after September the course is open to the public."

Maintaining Sankaty Head carries more responsibility than the same task at mainland courses because of the strange weather patterns on Nantucket. For one thing, there always is a wind. Coffin says the average wind velocity is 12 miles per hour. "That's tricky measurement," he added. "That's because it seems like it's blowing around 30 miles per hour most of the time."

Therefore, Coffin has to arrange his spraying, fertilizing and other related conditioning practices around the wind. Native instincts take over in that respect. He can almost feel a big blow coming. "Of course, the expense of maintenance coincides with the cost of everything else on the island," Coffin continued. "There are about three salesmen who get out here to see me. They can't come too often because it usually means renting a car and being assured they can return to the mainland in time to resume their regular schedules. Somebody has to absorb that cost. Guess who?"

Coffin, who reports that the average real estate transfer figure on Nantucket runs close to \$400,000, uses it as a barometer for the rest of the island's prohibitive prices. "Food's high, the electricity to cook it is high and everything else follows that trend," he said.



"I have to do my own delivering of maintenance equipment and material, so you tack on that \$150 boat ride to every purchase."

Sankaty Head, which has very few trees, is a year-round operation and never closes for more than a few weeks at a time. Fifteen-foot snowdrifts are common in winter but disappear just as fast as they appear. "Then, there's always the threat of hurricanes and sea spray damage," Coffin concluded. "It's different here all right. I guess that's the best way to describe it. But it's home to me and it's b good to me. That's all that counts in here business." No room for argument there, eh?

**GERRY FINN** 

Nov. 9-10, 1993	Strategies for Tomorrow's Business
	a conference sponsored by th University of Massachusetts
	Cooperative Extension Syste
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# The Super Speaks Out:

**This month's question:** Now that the summer drought should have spent itself, how did its effects become a factor in your turf recovery program in the matters of what had to be done and how they involved working budgets?



Mike Hermanson, Gardner Municipal Golf Course: "Relatively speaking, we were lucky fighting the drought because of an unusual rain pattern. While most areas were feeling the most damaging effects in a time period

between July 15 and August 20, the Gardner region was hit with an overall rainfall count of nine inches.

"Therefore, we were able to put some comeback into our turf after suffering through the timeslot of June 1 - July 15 when it rained less than an inch. I mean, it was crazy. And still is. As we speak (Sept. 1), we haven't had any rain to speak of in the last 11 days.

However, I'm a firm believer in the rains of September. They'll come. They always do." "Our irrigation system is limited to 14

holes which means that four holes went without water during all of the dry spells. It got so bad there that our golfers didn't know where the course began and the street left off. But the condition did have one redeeming result. The fairways were so hard the golfers' handicaps went down with each longer roll or each hit. In fact, the winning score in our club championship was the lowest on record."

"As for patching the bad spots and setting up a recovery plan for next season, we've already begun an extended over-seeding job. The strain of grass will be a mix rather than a pure strain because our mongrel grass seems to hold up better when the turf lacks a normal amount of water."

"There are no immediate plans to expand our irrigation system to include the full 18 holes but I would imagine it will get to the front burner in time. Other projects, with vice tags close to \$100,000, will be tackled nrst. Underlining all the drought-connected developments is the fact that they did nothing to deter the plans of our members. There are 1,100 here, so the number of players arrived on schedule. Which means that I considered it a slow day when only 300 showed up."

**Bob Piantedosi, Oakley Country Club:** "I'd call this a season of adjustment for everyone dealing with golf, whether as a superintendent or a player. In other words, you didn't have to close your eyes and envision that you were living in a desert environment. All you had to do was keep them open and the desert was there."

"We were dry all summer and, naturally, the summer became endless because of the drought conditions. It also was expensive in that costs for running our automatic, centerrow irrigation system ran much higher than usual. But that was to be expected and our members understood the situation."

"As for course looks and condition, it survived only as far and wide as the irrigation reached. The water output was up there, somewhere between 12 and 14 million gallons. But, again, that was a given because of the long stretches of rainless days and nights."

"The situation also meant that my conditioning strategies had to go back 20 and more years in time. In those places where the parched areas wouldn't quit, the answer was heavy reliance on hand-watering. That took care of the fairways. The roughs? I just let them go natural - brown in this case. Because we worked long and hard with low technology means, turf recovery won't be a major problem. I'm taking the conservative stand and depending on a natural recovery through the fall."

"That will give me time to concentrate on what's become an ultra-important project, completing construction of an irrigation pond which has been in the works for three years. Needless to say, this summer has added urgency to the project and I hope to have it ready for next year." Dino Fargo, Franconia and Veterans Municipal Golf Course: "I guess the best way to sum up this season is one where the golf course superintendent could not afford to leave town. It was one of those years when you could lose the course overnight. So, being away from it was justasking for trouble."

"We have irrigation on both courses. However, neither is automatic. That translates into a lot of man hours (for hand-watering) and maybe enough running around to burn up a vehicle or two."

"Taking a look at my circumstances, it would be safe to say that any talk about converting manual irrigation systems into automatic versions had to pick up as the rainless season got longer. It any course was thinking of going automatic, this was the year to make up the minds making that decision."

"Our situation was just an extension of the tough winter we had in the Springfield area. My measurement for snow hit 71 inches and according to my records, it was the biggest in 10 years. So, we went from being hard hit in the off-season by one form of Mother Nature to getting belted again when it just refused to rain."

"We had a lot of serious turf damage because of those conditions and my fall days will be full of an over-seeding project to repair that damage. But when you have a serious loss of turf it means serious money to replace it. In my case, we're talking \$5,000 to \$10,000 per fairway. It'll be costly, all right."

"And here's a piece of irony to top everything this summer. In the height of one of the driest golf seasons ever, I was in the middle of a long overdue drainage project. Can you beat that? Regardless, it had to be done because the money to do it was there. This was some summer, one every superintendent won't soon forget."

**GERRY FINN** 

by Noel Jackson, Lisa Rowley and Steve Alm URI Plant Sciences Department

> ematodes (the word if of Greek origin and means "threadlike") are roundworms that move by a sinuous motion in water, hence the common name "eelworms." They are

abundant in nature as free living saprobic organisms in moist environments contributing to the decay of organic matter but, in addition, all forms of animal and plant life harbor parasitic species of nematodes. Some animal parasites may be quite large (12-15"), those invading plants are generally small (3/ 16" or less) and hardly visible to the naked eye. Soils contain an abundance of microscopic nematodes, most of the saprobes, but a number of plant parasitic species can be present and, for some of these, grasses are the primary host.

Parasitic species comprising many different genera are equipped with stylet mouthparts for piercing cell walls of grass plants and extracting cell contents. This activity may occur with the soil inhabiting nematodes browsing on the outside of roots (ectoparasites) or burrowing into the root tissues (endoparasites). The end result is an impairment of root function-necrotic lesions, stunting, galls, and secondary infection by rootinvading fungi. Damage from a few nematodes is slight but large populations severely debilitate or eventually kill their hosts. Symptoms of nematode injury include yellowing, wilting, reduces growth, thinning, and ultimately severe patching of turf.

### NEMATODE COUNT DESPERATE MEASURE

Parasitic nematodes are widespread and serious problem of established turf in the southern states where the growing season is long and soil temperatures seldom fall below sustaining levels. These environmental conditions allow for numerous reproductive cycles over the growing season and the consequent development of high nematode populations necessary for damage to occur. With shorter growing seasons and winter soil temperatures that limit nematode survival, populations in northerly locations generally have been insufficient to warrant much concern. Apparently a well-managed turf can accommodate the depredations from existing populations with no obvious loss in quality. Exceptions to this probably have occurred, however, when nematodes, even in low numbers, predisposed turf to fungal invasion.

In general, calling for an nematode count in New England has been a last desperate measure when all else failed to explain a particular problem. Often the results proved inconclusive, but over the past few years an increasing number of reports associating turf damage and high nematode counts have surfaced. Soil-borne fungal pathogens, i.e. Collectotrichum graminicola, Magnaporthe poae, and Pythium spp., often were involved and while fungicides promoted some recovery, in many cases treatment with a nematicide provide greater benefit. It seems that nematodes are assuming a position of greater importance as turf pathogens in the northeast. Certainly this is no time for advocating the indiscriminate use of nematicides on any piece of unthrifty turf. Treatment of turf with nematicides should only be undertaken after careful sampling has eliminated other incitants as the primary cause and in turn, has indicated high populations of parasitic nematodes.

#### WHERE AND HOW TO SAMPLE

The routine sampling technique for fungal turf disease diagnosis, i.e. a 4" cup cutter, 3" deep taken from the advancing margin of a diseased area, can be used for preliminary nematode evaluation. It will give an indication as to whether nematodes may be the problem. However, any decision on nematicide use should be deferred until more comprehensive sampling has been completed. Nematodes are often found in clumped distributions and the initial test may just demonstrate a localized "hotspot." Thus, to sample a small suspect area, take about 5-10 one inch diameter cores adjacent to the thinned or dying patches to a depth of about 4", the zone of most root development. Do not sample from the center of dead patches, there the

population of nematodes is usually low. To sample a green overall, and especially where symptoms are not very apparent, take 25-30 soil cores (as above) in an X or Z pattern over the green. In each case record the site and sampling pattern so that you can go back over the same area if need be at a later date. Place the cores (with turf attached) together in a plastic bag and clearly identify the sample on the outside of the bag with a permanent marker. Refrigerate all samples until they can be sent out via overnight delivery or hand deliver immediately. From each bulked sample, an approximate one ounce subsample (25cc) is used in the evaluation procedure. Nematode counts are expressed in numbers per 100 cc's of soil and threshold guidelines for most of the common species encountered in New England were established by Dr. Rob Wick and UMass.

The following nematodes and the resp tive thresholds currently used are listed from. strongly parasitic to weakly parasitic: needle (>200), lance (>400), stunt (>800), ring (>3000) and spiral (>3000). The cyst and lesion nematodes do not currently have set thresholds. Since presumably we have always had nematodes (and always will) the threshold numbers are only guide and population numbers need to be interpreted for particular situations and time of year. For example, if the turf is of good appearance and the favorable fall growing conditions are fast approaching, then the allowable threshold can be much higher than for similar counts occurring in June and July when stressful conditions prevail. Nematode populations naturally decline over the winter months but the recent mild winters seem to have allowed increasing numbers to survive and this must account for the present high incidence of nematode problems in northeast turf.

### LIMITED CONTROL OPTIONS

Control options for nematodes are limited at this time. More research needs to b conducted in this area. Clandosan, a reg. tered chitin-based nematicide has proved totally ineffective in our turf trials. Mocap *continued on page 8* 

### MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION CHANGES

On March 3, 1993, the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture's Pesticide Board approved revision and modification of the Licensing and Certification Regulations (sections 9 & 10 of 333 CMR) and reorganization of certain parts of section 10 into section 13, "Standards of Application."

A complete copy of 333 CMR (the entire pesticide law) can be purchased from the State Book Store, Room 116, State House, Boston, MA 02133, (617) 727-2834. Cost is \$6.15 plus \$2.60 postage; make check payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### State Licensing Law Changed!

The Massachusetts General Law has been amended to require that individuals who use pesticides "as part of their duties" in and around apartment buildings, condominiums, schools, etc. are required to obtain a Massachusetts Applicator License or Certification. This includes janitors, maintenance personnel and landlords. This will effect anyone who applies pesticides when in the employ of a municipality, public or private school or similar situation.

#### The following changes become effec-

### tive

January 1, 1994

**Closed Book Exams** 

All exams will be closed book.

### **One Exam**

One exam will be given for each type of license. Applicator Licenses will still require the Core exam. Certification and Dealer licenses will require only one exam that combines the components of the core and specialty exam.

### re Requirement

Anyone taking any pesticide exam must be at least eighteen years of age as of the date of the examination.

### effective JANUARY 1, 1994

#### **Experience Requirement**

Before becoming certified, an individualmust have at least two years of work or other relevant experience include work as a licensed applicator, academic studies and other relevant work experience. Relevant experience substitutions will be defined and provided with the examination applications. The intent of the experience requirement is for an individual to work as a commercial applicator before applying for the commercial certification examination.

### **Contact Hours**

The old system of obtaining "credits" has been changed to one of accumulating "contact hours." A contact hour will equal fifty (50) consecutive minutes of training. In addition, the number of years to obtain training has been changed from 5 years to 3 years. Licensed Applicators and Licensed Dealers are now required to accumulate contact hours. The number of contact hours required is as follows:

> Commercial Certification 12 hours (per category)

Private Certification 12 hours (per category)

### Comm. Appl. License 6 hours

#### Dealer License 3 hours

You can convert your current recertification credits into contact hours by a straight conversion (1 credit = 1 contact hour). During any renewal period you may be audited to verify your continuing education. Those individuals will be notified beforehand with additional information pertaining to these new changes. **Obtaining Contact Hours** 

You may still obtain contact hours by attending workshops, lectures and seminar. In addition, the revised regulations also allow for alternative ways to accumulate contact hours:

Academic Courses - the course must be within the framework of a curriculum that leads to an academic degree in entomology, botany, plant pathology, agriculture, pest control, toxicology, public health, or is relevant to pesticide use, or any course within that curriculum that is necessary to an individual's professional growth and development as a pesticide applicator or handler.

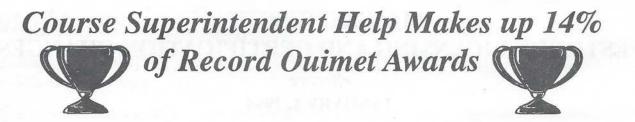
Self-Study or Correspondence Course the course should be one developed by a professional group such as an educational corporation, or professional association or university.

**Teaching or Publication** - continuing education hours may be earned by teaching a particular course, seminar series, or workshop for the first time, delivering a paper or lecture, or publishing an article or book on pesticide use. A course, seminar, or book may be considered for up to 9 continuing education hours; a published article may be considered the equivalent of up to 5 hours; and a lecture or paper may be considered the equivalent of up to 3 hours.

**Degree Programs** - certified or non-certified applicators taking courses for the purpose of obtaining a baccalaureate or higher degree in the biological sciences will be considered to have met the continuing education requirements specified in this section provided such courses equal at least the required number of hours. Other academic degree programs may qualify at the discretion of the department.

### Failing an Exam

After failing an exam, an applicant may apply for the next available date for retaking that exam. An applicant who fails any exam twice must wait three (3) months before applying for that exam. If an exam *continued on page 8* 



### Weston, Massachusetts

The Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund announced a record \$370.000 in college scholarship awards for 1993-'94, and 14% of the awards are going to course superintendent help.

"This has been a great, year for us and we are very grateful to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and its members for all of your assistance. We're proud that 14% of our awards are going to young people who help in the course superintendent operations," said Edward H. "Ted" Kenerson, II, Ouimet Fund President. "We're also grateful for the help of Steve Chiavaroli, your outgoing president, who is a Ouimet Scholarship Alumnus."

"This has been a great year for us and we are very grateful to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and its members for all of your assistance."

EDWARD H. "TED" KENERSON, H

The 1993-'94 Ouimet Awards represent an increase of \$40,000 since last year, and an increase of 24% from the \$298,000 of 1990-'91. This year awards are going to 240 young students who worked at 105 clubs and are attending 108 colleges and universities. Since 1949 the Ouimet Fund has awarded over \$6.4 Million

to 3,000 individual students.

Kenerson went on to explain that the clubs and course superintendents have done an excellent job of making young people award of the scholarships and that this year's group included 33 "new" clubs that were not represented last year. Applications for 1994-'95 awards are available through the Ouimet office now and deadlines for completed applications are December 1st.

**DIVOT DRIFT** ...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

### **CEDAR HILL GOLF COURSE** Stoughton, Massachusetts

A vacancy exists in the position of Golf Course Superintendent of the Cedar Hill Golf Course, located on Route 27 in Stoughton. This is a municipal nine-hole executive course. The candidate for this position should be a high school graduate, should have successfully completed college level courses in turf management, plus not less than five (5) years experience in grounds

maintenance work, at least one of which should have been as a work leader or other supervisory capacity; or candidate should have a combination of training and experience as would demonstrate possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform this work. Candidate must have Pesticide License and a Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

Proposed salary range - \$30,900 to \$35,400. Resumes should be submitted to Philip J. Farrington, Town Manager, 10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072. Town of Stoughton is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. will will had been had been been been been been blow had million of million o

### F.Y.I.

1993-'94 Massachusetts Management Recommendations for Insects, Diseases and Weeds of Shade Trees and Woody Ornamentals. \$15.00 per copy, check payable to UMass. Available from: Cooperative Extension System, Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

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J.P. Roberts Co. Technical Resource Catalog Survey-Weather-Testing-Meas.& Diag. Equipment. Barbara Piantedosi - (508) 456-6886 Safety Storage, Inc. Prefabricated pesticide storage bldgs., gas & oil, storage cabinets. 86 Sanderson Ave., Lynn, MA 01902 (617) 599-5490

Sawtell Bros. 65 Glenn St., Lawrence, MA 01843 (508) 682-9296

Scotts Pro-Turf Div. Allan Cumps, Regional Director Rep. Scott Brown - (401) 294-3606 Rep. Richard Forni - (401) 534-8896

Shemin Nurserles, Inc. Complete Hort. and Irrig. Supply Center. Hudson, MA 01749 Ron Diramio - 1-800-274-3646

Sports Club Management 104 Wyman Rd., Braintree, MA 02184 Ron Smith (Hazcom and right to know compliance implementation).

Sullivan Tire Co. *Goodyear Specialty Tires & Tubes* MA: 800-464-1144 • 508-580-2222 N.E.: 800-321-0042 Tom Wilson, Rep.

Tee and Green Sod, Inc. Bentgrass, bluegrass and blue/fesue sod. Dave Wallace, Exeter, RI 02822 (401)789-8177 (office) (401) 295-1870 (home)

Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc. Richmond, RI Chris Beasley, Rep. 1-800-556-5985

Turf Enhancement Enterprises Featuring Floratine Products, Precision Small Engine Co. & Trion Lifts. Tom Fox - (508) 865-9150

Turf Products Corp. 7 Coppage Dr., Worcester, MA 01603 (508) 791-2091

Turf Specialty, Inc. 15 Londonderry Rd. Londonderry, NH 03053 Turf & Ornamental Supplies. 1-800-228-6656 Bob Flanagan, Kevin Lyons, Dave Schermerhorn, John Lensing

White Turf, Inc. - Barre, MA Irrigation contractor, Pump specialist. (508) 355-6777

Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc. 240 Griswold Rd. Wethersfield, CT 06109 800-243-0232, Alan Anderson

Winfleld Nursery 1320 Mountain Rd., Suffied, CT 06109 Jeff Rogers (wholesale nursery trees & shrubs)

Philip Wogan Golf Course Architecture 17 Walker Rd., Topsfield, MA 01983

Varney Bros. Sand, Gravel & Concrete Concrete Golf Cart Paths Bellingham, MA 1-800-441-7373 Kenneth Mooradian, Rep.

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10G is registered for nematode control on turf but we have seen only moderate control and some turf injury, even when the application rate was split in half and applied four weeks apart. Therefore, Nemacur 10G is the only chemical control option for greens and tees. Nemacur is a very toxic chemical (Rat Oral  $Ld_{50}$ =3 mg./kg.).

There are protective clothing and equipment requirements listed on the label and written or oral warning must be given to workers who are expected to be in a treated area or in an area about to be treated with his product. Treated areas must be irrigated immediately after application with at least 0.5" of water and reentry into treated greens should not occur until the turf has dried following irrigation. Treated sod farms and commercial nurseries should not be re-entered for 48 hours after application unless protective clothing is worn. There are several other precautionary statements on the Nemacur label.

As with most turf problems there are generally more questions than answers. Hopefully we have provided some useful information that will help in addressing any nematode problems you encounter. We would like to thank Tony Caranci or Ledgemont C.C. and Neil Wendell of Point Judith C.C. for providing sites on their respective courses for nematode studies in 1993 and 1993. It is only through the cooperation of superintendents that we are able to acquire data on control of thirf pests and diseases. Please give us a call at (401) 792-2932 (Jackson) or (401) 792-5998 (Alm) if you would like to assist in an insect or disease control study. **Surf n Turf,** 

Rhode Island Golf Course Supintendents

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candidate fails any exam three times, tl candidate will be required to wait one (1) year before applying for it again. **Record Keeping-Pesticide Dealers only!** 

The record keeping requirement for the signature of the purchaser or his agent has been changed to the signature of purchaser and his agent. If a certified applicator sends someone else to purchase restricted use pesticides on his or her behalf, the Dealer must obtain the certified applicator's signature as well.

For additional information on these changes or on any aspect of the Massachusetts Pesticide Laws and Regulations, contact the **Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture Pesticide Bureau** 100 Cambridge Street Boston, MA 02202 (617) 727-3020

> TURF NOTE. September/October 1993



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