



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

Association OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

August/September 1998

## Weather plays a sad tune on this Piana at waterlogged Norwood Country Club

Back there in March, when 1998's bizarre weather pattern was eating up logic and spitting out senselessness, Joe Piana couldn't believe his eyes. He looked at the thermometer and the mercury was straining to reach 85 degrees.

"I should have known then," the nine-year Norwood Country Club golf course superintendent recalled that dog day of summer, when the calendar said it was still winter. "I should have known I'd pay for that bonus time, seeing golfers on the course as if it were the height of the season. I knew it was too good to be true. Unfortunately, I was right."

Piana was right on the money with that negative thought. Almost from the moment that it looked as though this was going to be an endless summer, favorable conditions reversed themselves.

The month of April was neither kind nor unkind to Norwood and Piana. The course managed to hold its own in the competitive market that public layouts

share with other enterprising rivals . . . mainly the outing business. However, May was a different story and a sad one for Piana.

That's when the rains took over the weather picture. Norwood just happened to lie in the vortex of stormy eruptions. It was at the center of every storm, and torrential downpours were the rule rather than the exception.

"We were closed 10 days in May," Piana reported. "We had continuous rainstorms that led to other problems. The Neponsett River rose and overflowed. The excess water always seemed to find a route to the golf course. Then, there were runoffs from Route 1 and from an airport that abuts our 12th hole. Put all of that together and it made play impossible."

The golfing regulars at Norwood, its members, knew what was going on and lost much playing time. But the big bite into the course's coffers was the loss of revenue-turning golf outings. That made

for much misery for the Vidata Management Company, which leases the popular public course.

Even at that the future took on hope of recovery because weather conditions always seem to even out in the matter of good and bad days.

Not so in Norwood's case and future.

"June was the worst month of all for us," Piana told. "It all started June 12 when we had a six-inch rainfall. The next day it rained another seven inches, and we'd had over a foot of rain in just over 24 hours. The river added big problems to the overall effect. We just had to sit there and wait for it to recede. It was a horrible feeling and sight."

Norwood lost 23 days in this outbreak of bad luck. The tally sheet was a horror story . . . 11 fairways and four tees were completely lost, and others severely damaged. The golf course had some company in the unplayable department.

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***Joe Piana  
Norwood Country Club***





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That adjacent airport was so saturated it was closed for one week.

Piana also encountered more woes in his overall maintenance program. Since there were periods when no course work could even be attempted, Joe was forced to cut down on his crew. There was nothing else he could do; the water just stood there as his patience started to wear thin.

"It's ironic but this is not the first time I got hit with high tides and overflowing waters," he said. "I was the super at Brook Meadow (Walpole, Mass.) in

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**Joe Piana  
Norwood C.C.**

the early 1980s when we got similar outbreaks of bad weather. That was also a flood situation. I lost six fairways in that battle during a three-day storm which isolated many holes. In fact, for awhile we had to use boats to haul equipment and workers to get certain greens mowed."

Joe figures that this year's waterlogged first half of the season wiped out May, June, and half of July. In fact, when interviewed for this story, he was sweating out the possibility of more rainstorms.

"When we finally were able to get some kind of recovery action going in early July, all I could envision were more storms to set us back again," he

remarked. "But there was some kind of light at the end of the tunnel."

"The plan was to concentrate on seeding and aerifying with sights set on getting nine of our 18 holes ready to play. It meant going out and hiring college kids for a full work assault. There's little chance of full recovery, but I'm looking to have four holes on the front nine and five on the back in full playing condition for the rest of the season."

By the middle of July, Piana and his crew were in the midst of 10-hour work days with one eye on the task at hand and the other looking over the shoulder for the dark clouds trumpeting the return of rain.

"This was a different sort of flood situation for me," Piana explained. "Back when I had the same problem at Brook Meadow, the water didn't stay around that long. This time it just sat there for day after day. That was the frustrating part, waiting for the turf to dry out enough to get into a recovery mode."

"Eventually, it did get better, with the most encouraging sign being the sight of golfers returning to the fairways and greens. Just to see them out there gave all of us a big lift. Regardless, the losses were huge. I figure we lost a full month of outings. When you're a public golf course, that's a real kick in the pants."

Piana, then, experienced a summer to end all summers this year. Back then (almost 15 years ago) Joe had thought he'd seen it all when he had to bail out Brook Meadow. But he was mistaken. Maybe, just maybe, he's seen it all this time.

**GERRY FINN**

## Calendar

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| October 5  | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Joint Meeting with N.H.<br>Vesper Country Club<br>Tyngsboro, Mass.<br>Supt. - Bert Frederick |
| October 21 | <b>Pro/Superintendent Tournament</b><br>Site TBA  |
| November 2 | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Whitinsville Golf Club<br>Whitinsville, Mass.<br>Supt. - Paul Wilson                         |



# The Super Speaks Out

## **This month's question:**

*How do you handle weekend scheduling, and how is the present economy affecting seasonal help recruitment?*

### **Todd Sauer, Mt. Pleasant Country Club:**

"Rotation. That's the name of the game when you have to get a weekend crew on the job for what's probably the most critical time in the matter of having the course in peak condition.

"I rotate my regular staff on a one weekend-on, one weekend-off basis. This seems to be the fairest way of getting people to work weekends, because, let's face it, nobody likes to work weekends.

"Here at Mt. Pleasant I have a little kicker in reserve that allows me to spread out the weekend load. I have a few individuals who are strictly part-time and commit to working strictly on weekends. So that gives me enough help on top of my regular crew.

"Nowadays it's not all that easy to get the seasonal help that was there just for the asking a few years ago. Simply put, we have to compete with other employers for summer help. Sometimes, it can be a problem.

"However, I've found that taking out ads in suburban newspapers brought me excellent results. There's a summer work force out there, and the ads draw them here.

"One other plus that's helped me in overall scheduling is the training I had under my old boss, Jim Beane. I learned from observation at first. Then Jim gave me the responsibility of handling all the scheduling when he was the head super. That was invaluable, because it was one of the facets of this job I'd experienced as an assistant.

As for other aids in nailing down reliable summer help, the opportunity for free playing privileges is definitely a perk. Most of the college kids I hire are interested in golf and enjoy playing the game. Therefore, I hit two nails on the head with one swing. The kids like to play and I've always thought that workers who know the game bring something extra to the task they're assigned to do."

### **Connor Fitzgerald, Chelmsford Country Club:**

"I'd say it's kind of a hectic situation, this matter of getting people to work weekends. Certainly, most people look forward to weekends when they can put the work week behind them and relax. If you work on a golf course, you don't have that luxury.

"Therefore, I get everyone into the act, including myself. I schedule my work force on an every-other-weekend basis. I also make sure that one supervisor or assistant is on hand at every working hour on weekends.

"Since we are a nine-hole course, I can get along with two people, plus the supervisor, working four-hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. That makes those two days regular working days, and the crew members are compensated by getting time off during the week.

"My entire crew consists of myself, two full-time workers, and four part-time workers during the height of the season. It's in the area of the part-time help that hiring can be testy.

"My problem here is a combination of things. One is the fact that Chelmsford is a place where the work force is in full swing all of the time. There aren't too many slackers around here. It's a working man's kind of environment, so I have to look long and hard for those part-timers.

"Which brings us to the second part of the problem. Most of the kids I hire are non-repeaters. They work for me one season and I never see them again. Most also are high school kids. So, for the most part, I spend a lot of my time training

them to do the job here, then lose them when they've come close to letting it all sink in.

"That's why it's hectic trying to nail down seasonal help. There's a lot of competition out there for that help. And most of that competition can't outdo me when it comes to talking paydays."

**Tom Platt, Colonial Golf Club:** "I have to admit I really work at it when it comes to establishing a work crew that will do the job the way I expect to have it done.

"I'm kind of lucky in this respect, too, because our owners never have eliminated overtime during the busy part of the golf season. That's a big help and part of the reason my entire staff works six days a week.

"That leaves the second half of the weekend, and I hire people specifically for that time slot in the work schedule. So far I've had good results all the way down the line.

"My seasonal help is made up of college kids. Some of them are really in the selective class, meaning that they've been trained in such high-skilled tasks as cup changing and green mowing. This is very much an advantage for the overall maintenance program because locating the cup and placing it at the right depth means favorable reaction from golfers playing the course.

"I do have some turnover of seasonal help, only because of the diversification of college kids' interests. For the most part, the perk of being able to play keeps the work wheel spinning. However, it is not essential.

"Rather, I concentrate on making working conditions here as attractive as possible. We try to make working together fun. There's a lot of friendship on my crew and a lot of good, productive work comes from it. So, my scheduling problem is no problem at all."

**GERRY FINN**

**"Let's face it, nobody likes to work on weekends."**

**Todd Sauer  
Mt. Pleasant C.C.**



# Turfgrass for low maintenance sites, Part I

by Mary Owen  
Regional Turf Specialist  
University of Massachusetts Extension

Selection of turfgrass species depends on several factors: the intended use of the turf; the amount and duration of foot and/or vehicle traffic; the type, depth and condition of the soil and underlying medium; the environmental sensitivity of the site; the amount and frequency of fertilizer applications necessary to maintain quality; the availability of supplemental irrigation; and the amount of management time and expertise available.

When conditions call for a functional turfgrass cover requiring a minimum of inputs and where traffic is low to moderate, careful turfgrass selection is critical to performance and persistence of the turf. The intent of this article is to provide information on types of grasses suitable for successful growth under low maintenance, low input regimes.

## The Inputs

Low maintenance turfs are generally grown with a minimum of inputs. This means that there is no or limited supplemental irrigation, that fertilizer is not applied or is applied at low rates, that mowing height is kept high, and mowing frequency is low. Other cultural practices such as aeration are seldom performed. Pesticide applications are rarely done, and damage from pests and other stresses is often corrected by renovation and/or overseeding.

## Determine Site Use

These turfgrass sites requiring high use such as athletic fields and heavily trafficked yards will, because of the use demands placed upon the turfgrass plants, have a greater need for inputs in order for the turf to perform well. The more traffic and the more stressful the conditions, the less well any grass will grow. The result will be soil compaction, thinning turf, and invasion of weeds and undesirable grasses. Low maintenance grasses are best suited for large park areas, moderately used yards, untrafficked areas, utility areas, poor soil, and environmentally sensitive sites where applications of plant management materials are not permitted.

## Turfgrass Selection

Turfgrass areas can be maintained in a low maintenance regime provided initial selection of grasses or selection of grasses for overseeding is made with care. Grasses grown in low maintenance situations should be relatively quick to establish and form a dense, persistent cover; perform well with limited fertility and moisture; be resistant to drought; and be able to tolerate poor and slightly acidic soils.

**Fine Leaved Fescues.** The fine leaved fescues (Chewings, hard, creeping red, and sheep) as a group exhibit a high level of drought resistance. These narrow bladed grasses are able to survive and to withstand periods of water stress. They are typically slower growing than other cool season turfgrasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, and so require less frequent mowing. Their nutrient requirements, especially their nitrogen requirement, is lower than most other cool season turfgrasses. They tolerate infertile, slightly acidic soils.

The fine leaved fescues are basically bunch-type grasses. They spread by tillering, by forming new stems attached to the mother plant. With the exception of creeping red fescue which does form some rhizomes, fine leaved fescues do not spread by stolons or rhizomes as do some other grasses. This growth habit, along with very fine leaf texture, makes it more difficult for them to recover from wear and injury associated with heavy traffic.

**Creeping red fescue** is capable of forming a dense, high quality turf. Though its vertical shoot growth is slower than most other cool season turfgrasses, it will establish fairly rapidly, and develop a dense, fibrous root system where conditions allow. Creeping red fescue is well adapted to growing in shady conditions, but will be of higher quality in full sun. It will not tolerate wet, poorly drained or saline soils.

Creeping red fescue will not hold up well under high fertility and high water regimes. It requires about 0.2 to 0.5 lbs. of nitrogen per growing month for maintenance of quality. It should be mown at 1.5 to 2.5 inches; somewhat higher when growing in the shade.

**Chewings fescue** also is capable of forming dense turf. It performs well in shade and under dry conditions. This grass tends to become bunched under conditions which do not favor its growth, such as higher maintenance regimes. Its culture is similar to creeping red fescue. Chewings fescue is tolerant of lower mowings and more traffic than other fine leaved fescues.

**Sheep fescue** is often used in mixes with other fine fescues or quite successfully in the proper location (very low use areas) by itself. It is a tough bladed, slow growing grass, and tends to be very bunched. When used on very low maintenance sites where mown appearance is not critical, it performs well with a single mowing per year. It will not, in fact, tolerate frequent or low mowing. Sheep fescue has poor heat tolerance, but is extremely drought resistant. It grows best on sandy, gravelly, infertile, slightly acidic soils. Though best for low use areas, it does show fairly good wear tolerance. Sheep fescue will perform best under unirrigated conditions and poor soil fertility, with little or no supplemental nitrogen fertilizer.

**Hard fescue** has the capability of forming a dense turf stand with an extensive root system. Its drought resistance is somewhat less than sheep fescue but greater than red fescue, will tolerate turfgrass height mowing, and is adapted to shaded sites. Its nitrogen requirement is similar to that of creeping red fescue.

Creeping red, Chewings, and hard fescues are often used in combination with Kentucky bluegrasses and/or perennial ryegrasses for lawns and other areas which experience some use and traffic, or large areas where topography, soil types, and amount of shade vary. Under more high maintenance regimes the bluegrasses or ryegrasses will tend to dominate the turf stand. When grown under poor soil and drought conditions, the fescues will tend to dominate.

Any of the fine fescues may be mixed with one another to provide a seed mix suitable for very low maintenance areas, such as roadside areas, or non-use areas.

(Part II in next month's Newsletter)



## Pesticide Law

# EPA's top 10 chemical infractions to avoid

The golf course superintendent manages and maintains the most valuable asset in the game of golf - the golf course. Remember, the superintendent's role as an environmental steward requires proper knowledge of and training in the chemicals used on the golf course. He or she is crucial to the success of the facility and, more importantly, the health of the environment. Listed below are 10 common infractions of pesticide laws found by inspectors in one EPA region.

### Invalid business or applicator license.

Your superintendent is responsible for keeping it renewed and accessible.

**Label violation.** The labels for many pesticides have been changed over the past four to five years as a result of the EPA's re-registration program.

Consequently, many uses for products, such as diazinon and malathion, have been eliminated. Yet some applicators may continue to buy and use products on plants (sites) that are no longer on the label.

**Improper mixing.** Problems can come from prohibited tank mixes that cause interactions. There can be plant reactions from combinations of certain classes of pesticides that are applied days, or even weeks, apart.

**Failure to survey the site before applying a pesticide.** For instance, overlooking or forgetting area wetlands.

**Poor preparation for spills or other emergencies.** How many application rigs carry some soap, water, disposable towels, and an eyewash kit? Worker protection standards now are very specific about providing decontamination materials. Applicators should be familiar with how to handle spills of pesticides.

**Drift complaints.** Knowledge of product characteristics and attention to environmental conditions such as wind speeds or inversions will reduce the potential for problems. Be aware of sensitive nearby crops or plants.

**Incomplete or missing records.** Private and commercial applicators must keep appropriate record of pesticide applications.

### Spray tank not properly cleaned; applicator not familiar with tank's history.

This can also lead to plant damage or illegal residues. When purchasing used spray equipment, determine the types of products that have been applied by the previous owner.

**Sales representative makes erroneous product safety claims.** Lack of familiarity with the label may be a major reason for unrealistic claims. Look critically for cautions or warnings, such as sensitivity or effects of specific weather conditions on applications or product efficacy.

**Failure to use personal protective equipment.** Specifications may even require specific types of gloves or spray

units. Use quality equipment and keep it clean and functional. Replace it as needed.

**Warning:** The penalty for using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling can include fines up to \$1,000 per offense for private applicators: owners/operators of golf courses. Check your local and state laws and regulations.

**Key:** Be sure to allocate a budget for your superintendent to provide for ongoing training for applicators.

From Kentucky Pest News,  
Kentucky Cooperative Extension Svc.,  
Number 762, Nov. 25, 1996;  
North Carolina Turfgrass,  
Nov./Dec. 1997.

## GCSANE News

# Remember when?: GCSANE's past

Remember when? looks at significant events and individuals of GCSANE's past.

### 25 years ago

The next meeting of the GCSANE will be Thursday, Aug. 9, 1973 at Crestview Country Club, where the course comes under the capable grooming and pampering of superintendent Dave Clement. This will be a joint meeting of the New England, Northeast, and Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Associations. "Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. sharp. Cost for dinner, golf, and tournament is \$15.00."

A report from Joseph Troll, professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Massachusetts, suggests that the past two seasons in New England have been difficult years for growing fine turfgrass. Dr. Troll says the consistent combination of large amounts of rain and very high air temperatures has produced extreme periods of stress on plants, resulting in a high rate of turf kill. Recovery from these conditions has been minimal, especially at this time of year. It's proposed that the remedy lies in fall and spring, when it's advisable to aerify and fertilize afflicted areas.

### 15 years ago

Bob Brown's winning score of 87-16-69 in the sales net division of last month's meeting-tournament at Marshfield has raised many an eyebrow, not to mention the skeptics' scorn.

Some say it is beyond belief to think that Brown of Sawtelle Bros. is the new sales division champion. Either he sharpened his pencil and did plenty of pushing, or he had a memory lapse and forgot to register a few holes on his scorecard along the way. Guys like Larry Bunn and Steve Butler should be ashamed to lose to a guy who normally can't break 100!

### 5 years ago

The always fun-filled ABCD best ball tournament proved just that recently at Thorny Lea, where Joe Rybka does the superintendent's honors. Low gross went to the foursome of Jack Hassett, Tuen Garrity, Kevin Laporte, and Max Mierzwa. First low net honors were garnered by Dave Commee, Mike Hermanson, Dave Kahrman, and Gary Luccini. Greg Misodoulakis, Mike Cornicelli, Steve Butler, and Dick Zepp were third low net, followed by the quartet of Tom Fox, Robin Hayes, Tony Caranci, and Leroy Allen.

GERRY FINN



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

### **CONFERENCE**

**Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show March 2-4, 1999.** The second annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show (NERTCS) will take place March 2-4, 1999. Due to the overwhelming success of 1998, the show will remain at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

The three-day trade show will feature over 300 industry exhibitors from throughout the United States, including professionals in the many phases of turfgrass management and the latest in equipment, turf care products, and supplies. Those professionals in the green industry: Landscape/lawn care, managers and designers, golf course superintendents, and growers should plan on attending. All interested exhibitors and attendees should call (401) 848-0004 to reserve their space. Exhibit space is already 3/4 sold out!

The education/conference portion will offer industry seminars geared for turf professionals, and recertification credits can be earned at these programs. Turf is our focus and seminars will feature sessions on golf course management, lawn and landscape care, Sports turf, athletic field and municipal turf management, as well as machinery & shop maintenance.

Presented by the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation, the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island and University of Massachusetts, welcomes additional exhibitors and all interested attendees. Proceeds will be dedicated to support and develop turf research and education. For additional information on the conference, please call the show office at (401) 848-0004.

### **SEMINARS**

**The GCSANE and GCSAA present two seminars.** *Strategies for Managing the Turfgrass System* will be presented Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1998; code: 99RS113-04; member fee: \$110, non-member fee: \$165; CEUs: 0.7. *Developing Your Hazard Communication Program* will be presented Wed., Nov. 18, 1998; code: 99RS012-01; member fee: \$110, non-member fee: \$165; CEUs: 0.7. Both seminars will be held at The International, Bolton, Mass., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, or to register, call (800) 472-7878.

### **INFORMATION**

**Michael F. Nagle, superintendent at Worcester Country Club,** has completed a renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Nagle has been superintendent at the Worcester, Mass. course since 1983. He initially achieved his title of CGCS in 1988.

The GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,600 golf course superintendents currently hold CGCS status. To become certified, a candidate must have at least three years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity, and meet specific post secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education units (CEUs). The candidate must then pass a rigorous six-hour examination covering knowledge of GCSAA and its certification program; rules of golf; turfgrass management, pest control, safety, and compliance; and financial and human resource management.

To fulfill certification renewal requirements, Nagle earned 10 CEUs, with at least seven coming from GCSAA tested categories. Maintaining certified status requires a renewal process be completed every five years since initial certification.

**1999 Environmental Steward Award Call for Entries.** Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products; Rain Bird; Pursell Technologies, Inc.; and Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products with Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes, and Ryan brands; in partnership with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, announce the 1999 Environmental Steward Award Call for Entries.

The Environmental Steward Awards seek to recognize the accomplishments of golf course superintendents around the world who have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship efforts on the golf course. Applicants are evaluated for overall course management in the areas of technology use, resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife habitat management and education/outreach. Three national winners (representing one public, one private, and one resort course facility), up to three winners from each of GCSAA's 100 affiliated chapters, and a number of merit winners will be selected for the 1999 awards.

Applications for the 1999 awards are available through the GCSAA Service Center (800-472-7878) and from each of the participating sponsors. The application also is available on the GCSAA Web site ([www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)) and may be printed out or completed and returned electronically.

Winners will be formally recognized during the Feb. 12 Golf, Government, and Environmental General Session at GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Feb. 7-14, in Orlando, Fla.

Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products; Rain Bird; Pursell Technologies, Inc.; and Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products with Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes, and Ryan brands, each will donate to The GCSAA Foundation in the names of all national and chapter winners. In addition, all four sponsoring companies each will donate \$5,000 to The GCSAA Foundation.

The GCSAA Foundation is committed to advancing environmental and scientific developments in golf course management, providing educational opportunities for superintendents and turfgrass students and preserving the history of the profession. Since 1993, participating sponsors have contributed more than \$100,000 to The GCSAA Foundation, and more than 180 golf course superintendents have been recognized with Environmental Steward Awards. For additional information on the 1999 awards, contact Jeff Bollig or Kristi Frey at the GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859; (800) 472-7878, ext. 430 or 608; Fax: (785) 832-3673; [media@gcsaa.org](mailto:media@gcsaa.org).

**Turf Diagnostic Services at University of Massachusetts.** Dr. Gail Schumann continues to provide disease diagnostic services thanks to industry support. She recommends you call before sending in samples because some problems can be solved over the phone, and to make sure that she is available to accept the sample. Be sure to wrap cup-cutter-size plugs (2-3" deep) or 6"x6" squares of turf, including the lead edge of the problem. Samples from the early stage of a disease and before a fungicide application are most likely to lead to an accurate diagnosis. Information sent with the sample should include symptoms, weather conditions at time of symptoms, turfgrass species, and recent pesticide applications; plus phone, address, etc. of the person submitting the sample. A diagnostic history sheet can be printed from the Turf Program Website (<http://www.umass.edu/umext/turf>) or Dr. Schumann will mail one to you. Dr. Schumann can be reached by phone: (413) 545-3413 with voice mail; email: [schumann@plpath.umass.edu](mailto:schumann@plpath.umass.edu); and at her office: 209 Fernald Hall, UMass. (There is a signed parking place across the street for delivered samples.) Send samples by overnight delivery to: Dr. Gail Schumann, Dept. of Microbiology, Morrill Hall IV-N203, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 01003-5720. The cost is \$50.00 per problem. Make check payable to University of Massachusetts and mail to Dr. Schumann. The check does not need to accompany the sample.



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## Government Relations

# GCSAA monitors a range of legislative & agency activity

Golf courses may reap the benefits of being labeled as beneficial "carbon sinks", according to U.S. Senate staff working on global warming issues. Citing seven months of record-breaking heat, Vice President Al Gore last week called on Congress to fully fund the program of research and tax incentives to reduce emissions that contribute to global warming.

The EPA will shift staff and resources from other agency programs to enforce the December 1998 UST upgrade requirements. A petroleum industry group had asked EPA to take such

measures saying the lack of enforcement personnel will make state level compliance inconsistent and meaningless. The additional staff will help states that do not already have active UST enforcement programs.

The EPA has launched a nationwide program to reduce nutrient pollution in water. A 1996 national water quality report to Congress identified nutrients as the second most significant contributor to the impairment of water bodies. Nitrogen and phosphorous, the main nutrients of concern, are believed responsible for fish kills, harmful algae

blooms, and reduced oxygen levels. States will have until 2003 to develop numeric criteria to determine the amounts of nutrients that can be present in waters without impairing their designated uses. The criteria will also be used to develop water quality standards and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limits for Clean Water Act permits.

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