

Research Update



The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee at work at its December 1997 meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

THE USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee met during the first week of December 1997 to evaluate more than 70 proposals from university researchers for various turfgrass-related projects for the period 1998-2002. At stake was approximately \$1.4 million of the \$2 million annual funding approved by the USGA Executive Committee in August of 1996. After two days of intensive evaluations and discussions, the Committee approved funding for 41 projects at an annual cost of about \$950,000. Other projects will be considered at the Committee's meeting in May 1998. This funding total does not include the \$200,000 allocated to fund the Wildlife Links Program, which earmarks funds for wildlife-related research, or the funding of the five-year green construction investigations that began in 1996.

The following table indicates the anticipated funding of turfgrass and environmental programs, by category, for 1998.

1998 Grant Estimates

Project Area	1998 Est.
Cooperative Sanctuary	\$ 100,000
Wildlife Links	200,000
Germplasm Enhancement	424,417
Integrated Turfgrass Management	292,409
Risk Assessment	0
Site-Specific Management	0
Sustainable Land Use	10,000
Pesticide/Nutrient Fate	181,540
Course Construction	
Current	120,000
Proposed	48,600
Subtotal	168,600
Putting Green Test	
Current	105,000
Data Collection	14,000
Subtotal	119,000
Contingency*	200,000
Total	\$1,695,966

*Includes projects that may be funded at the May 1998 meeting, as well as potential studies concerning soil testing

Committee Volunteers



Tom Burton (left) and Dr. Vic Gibeault.

THE MAINSTAY of the USGA is the willingness of people across all walks of the golf industry to volunteer their time and talents to the many USGA Committees. Tom Burton and Dr. Vic Gibeault are two such individuals who have generously given to the USGA.

Tom Burton, Sea Island Golf Club, Sea Island, Georgia, recently stepped down from the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee. From 1988 to 1997, Tom used his talents and experience as a golf course superintendent to help focus research project objectives on the needs of superintendents. Dr. Vic Gibeault, University of California — Riverside, who joined the USGA Research Committee in 1985, also is retiring from the Committee. He is redirecting his efforts on new turf research projects at Riverside, specifically in the area of turfgrass sustainability. He also is acting as vice chair in the Botany and Plant Science Department, reviewing the role of California extension specialists.

Both men have seen the turfgrass research program take great strides in the development of improved turfgrasses that substantially reduce water use, pesticide use, and maintenance costs. They helped oversee the expansion of the program from an emphasis on turfgrass breeding to include new research to develop management practices that protect the environment while providing high quality playing surfaces. The Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee also oversaw the grants that allowed the development of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses and more recently the launching of new research through the Wildlife Links Program, pertaining to wildlife on golf courses.

The USGA thanks both Tom and Vic for their dedicated service to the USGA for the betterment of the game of golf.

Say 'So Long' to the Western Region



THE growing number of clubs participating in the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service in the western United States has precipitated a few changes in the Green Section's regional structure.

Effective immediately, the Western Region exists no more! It has been divided into two regions: the Northwest Region, encompassing the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Hawaii; and the Southwest Region, consisting of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

Pat Gross (pictured above), who has been an agronomist for the Western Region since 1992, has been promoted

to the position of director of the newly formed Southwest Region. He will oversee the Green Section's Turf Advisory Service and other regional activities along with Mike Huck, an agronomist who joined the Western Region staff in 1995. Pat brings outstanding experience to his new position. He is a California State Polytechnic University graduate who majored in ornamental horticulture with a specialization in turfgrass science. His hands-on golf experience includes work at Industry Hills Golf Course, Industry, California; Shandin Hills Golf Course, San Bernardino, California; and Hacienda Golf Club, La Habra Heights, California.

Larry Gilhuly, previously director of the Western Region, now serves as director of the newly created Northwest Region.

Welcome New Committee Members



THE Green Section is pleased to announce that Dr. Gerald Pepin and Dr. Patricia Cobb have agreed to

lend their talents to the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee. Dr. Pepin is the executive vice-president and general manager of Pickseed West, Inc., based in Jefferson, Oregon. Dr. Cobb is a professor in extension entomology at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.

As visiting scientists, they will serve a two-year appointment to the committee, through 1999. Drs. Pepin and Cobb will attend research committee meetings, review research proposals, and participate in monitoring visits to USGA-sponsored research sites throughout the year.

Attention Effluent/Reclaimed/Recycled Irrigation Water Users: We Need Your Help!

THE *WateReuse* Association, an organization dedicated to increasing water recycling, recently formed a golf course work group. This organization is comprised of a broad spectrum of members from public agencies, consultants, and private industry, along with regulatory agencies working together to find solutions to recycled water use problems. The association was organized in 1990 to address recycled water use in the state of California. Their scope has now expanded to include national and international concerns.

The golf course work group was formed under the Landscape/Horticulture Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee. Mike Huck, agronomist, USGA Green Section Southwestern Region, is heading this group in conjunction with committee members Pat Gross, Director, USGA Southwestern Region, and Mark Stanek, Technical Advisor / Water Quality, City of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Works. The work group intends to address specific problems and concerns that golf courses have with recycled irrigation water, including:

- Developing an accurate and up-to-date database of golf courses irrigating with recycled water.
- Survey golf courses using recycled water to identify specific problems and gain feedback from users.
- Suggest minimum water quality standards for turf (and particularly

putting greens) irrigation with regard to salinity, pH, SAR, bicarbonate content, and toxic ions.

- Develop design and management guidelines for lakes to reduce the need for algae and water weed control by using the input and experience of water reclamation engineers and treatment plant operators.

- Recommend that recycled water suppliers provide golf course users with water analysis reports on a frequent basis that address water quality from both agricultural suitability and human health standpoints.

- Establish uniform system retrofit standards with regard to backflow, signage, cross connection, health and safety regulations, etc.

- Develop best management practices.

If your course currently uses or is scheduled to begin using recycled water in the near future, we need your help to develop a database of users. Please send the name, address, phone, and fax of your golf course, and a contact person to:

Mike Huck
USGA Southwest Region
505 N. Tustin Ave., Suite 121
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Fax (714) 542-5777
e-mail: mhuck@usga.org

This will assure that our upcoming user survey reaches you, and your experiences with recycled water are documented. Thank you for your participation.

Physical Soil Testing Laboratories*

The following laboratories are accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), having demonstrated ongoing competency in testing materials specified in the USGA's Recommendations for Putting Green Construction. The USGA recommends that only A2LA-accredited laboratories be used for testing and analyzing materials for building greens according to our guidelines.

**BROOKSIDE
LABORATORIES, INC.**
308 S. Main Street
New Knoxville, OH 45871
Attn: Mark Flock
(419) 753-2448
(419) 753-2949 FAX

**EUROPEAN TURFGRASS
LABORATORIES LIMITED**
3 Cunningham Road
Springkerse Industrial East
Stirling FK7 7SL Scotland
Attn: John Souter
(44) 1786-449195
(44) 1786-449688 FAX

N. W. HUMMEL & CO.
35 King Street, P.O. Box 606
Trumansburg, NY 14886
Attn: Norm Hummel
(607) 387-5694
(607) 387-9499 FAX

**THOMAS TURF
SERVICES, INC.**
1501 FM 2818, Suite 302
College Station, TX 77840-5247
Attn: Bob Yzaguirre / Jim Thomas
(409) 764-2050
(409) 764-2152 FAX

**TIFTON PHYSICAL SOIL
TESTING LABORATORY, INC.**
1412 Murray Avenue
Tifton, GA 31794
Attn: Powell Gaines
(912) 382-7292
(912) 382-7992 FAX

**TURF DIAGNOSTICS
AND DESIGN, INC.**
310-A North Winchester Street
Olathe, KS 66062
Attn: Chuck Dixon
(913) 780-6725
(913) 780-6759 FAX

*Revised January 1998. Please contact the USGA Green Section (908-234-2300) for an updated list of accredited laboratories.