



Environmental Issues Facing Golf

Golf takes pride in environmental stewardship. Properly maintained turfgrass provides many community benefits including critical "greenspaces", habitat for birds and other wildlife, recreational opportunities, capture of run-off pollutants in stormwater, carbon sequestration, and oxygen production. The golf industry supports environmental laws and regulations that are based on sound science and credible data and promote the values of turfgrass and professionally managed landscapes.

- ◆ **National Turfgrass Research Initiative** - Turf comprises 60+ million acres; 4th largest crop in the U.S. Turf is horticulture's most omnipresent crop worldwide. Golf needs support to promote turf research and its many benefits, aided by academia, competitive government grants, and private industry. Turfgrass is recognized as a specialty crop by the USDA.
 - ❖ ***Take Action:*** Please recognize the importance of the NTRI (language in House base text of 2018 Farm Bill does this) and prioritize future turfgrass research funds. Farm Bill funding will support research that encourages discovery of solutions in areas ranging from drought and water conservation to soil erosion mitigation and enhancing commercial, recreational and residential spaces.
- ◆ **ESA Reform** - Modern golf course management could not exist without the judicious application of pesticides. EPA assesses and registers pesticides if they meet federal human health and environmental safety standards. This process intersects with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under ESA, when a federal agency takes any action that may affect a threatened or endangered species, that agency is required to "consult" with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure the action does not jeopardize the continued existence of the species or adversely modify its critical habitat. EPA and the Services have never been able to agree how consultations should be conducted and this has resulted in endless litigation.
 - ❖ ***Take Action:*** Please support the new MOA between EPA-Interior-Commerce which establishes an interagency Working Group to evaluate and improve the ESA consultation process for pesticide registration. Congress should also support legislation in the 2018 Farm Bill that would bring clarity to the FIFRA/ESA intersection and fix the broken pesticide consultation process between Federal Agencies.
- ◆ **NPDES Pesticide General Permits** - The golf industry supports passage of legislation which would negate the need for federal Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES permits for chemical spraying activities made in accordance with the Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Pesticides are already highly regulated under FIFRA and FIFRA already requires EPA ensure that pesticides cause "no unreasonable adverse effect" to humans or the environment – including water quality and aquatic species - and that use labels are crafted to protect these resources.
 - ❖ ***Take Action:*** Please support passage of S. 340, the "Sensible Environmental Protection Act of 2017" and the Agriculture Creates Real Employment (ACRE) Act.

National Golf Day 2018