STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR GOLF ACCREDITATION

Golf courses IPM Accredited under Plant Health Atlantic must agree to abide by the following Standards of Practice.

1. To support the intent of the Plant Health Atlantic - IPM Accreditation Program and conduct all pest management within the principals of Integrated Pest Management.

2. To first and foremost consider the health of humans and the environment and adherence to all provincial, federal, and municipal laws having to do with pest control products and/or pest management practices.

3. To have a minimum of one fully certified IPM Turf Practitioner on staff, who is responsible for; coordinating the IPM program; developing a program for the continual education of company personnel; and participating in prescribed audits.

4. To focus their operations on the implementation of cultural practices such as using optimum soil depth and quality, suitable turf varieties, topdressing, over-seeding, proper mowing heights, watering, fertilizing, aerating and de-thatching of fine turf areas as components for maintaining healthy turfgrass and preventing pest problems.

5. To encourage, educate and solicit the assistance of golfers and golf course management in ensuring that optimum cultural practices are followed.

6. To monitor property for pest infestation at regular intervals and maintain a log of observations.

7. To document pesticide use and pesticide alternative strategies through IPM and keep records for audit purposes.

8. To use pesticides only after rigorous examination and diagnosis and all other alternative products and cultural practices have been exhausted.

9. To apply treatments that are properly timed to maximize effectiveness. Preventative treatments are discouraged and will only be used based on pest history as locally monitored.

10. To utilize spot treatments for the control of weeds, insects and diseases. Blanket applications are only used if warranted.

11. To implement effective staff IPM training.

12. To maintain and regularly calibrate application equipment and to keep records thereof.

13. To establish and implement buffer zones when making applications adjacent to sensitive sites.