

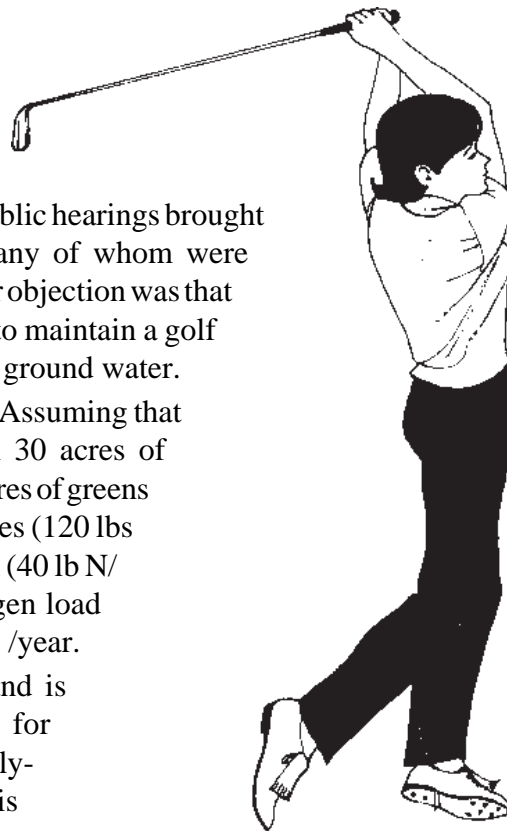
Something to Think About

Are golf courses such a horrifying use of land as many people think?

A town zoning board recently considered the request of a developer to build an 18 hole public golf course. Much of the land was already in corn production. The public hearings brought people out of the woodwork, many of whom were opposed to the project. Their major objection was that the high rates of fertilizer needed to maintain a golf course would pollute streams and ground water.

Think about this for a minute. Assuming that this was a 120 acre parcel, with 30 acres of fairways (80 lb N/acre/year), 2.5 acres of greens (120 lbs N/acre/year), 2 acres of tees (120 lbs N/acre/year) and 85 acres of rough (40 lb N/acre/2 years), then the total nitrogen load on this course is about 25 lbs/acre /year.

If the farmer working this land is following Cornell Recommends for Corn Production, he should be applying around 130 lbs N/acre. With this in mind, are golf courses such a horrifying use of land as many people think?



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