

# **Agreement between the Danish Golf Union, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government Denmark on phasing out the use of plant protection products on golf courses**

## **Objective and scope**

1. The object of this agreement is to limit the risk of polluting the groundwater and to protect the environment by phasing out the use of chemical plant protection products on the golf courses. The sub-goal is to achieve a 75 % reduction in use by the end of 2008.
2. This agreement includes all chemical plant protection products for protecting, combating and controlling plant growth and all agents for combating or preventing invertebrate animals. The agreement does not include plant protection products used in accordance with the regulations in force for organic farming.
3. The agreement applies to areas run or maintained by golf clubs with membership of the Danish Golf Union – regardless of private or public ownership of the land.

## **The phase out**

4. From 1 January 2006, golf clubs with membership of the Danish Golf Union may not continue to use plant protection products, unless this use is in accordance with the guidelines mentioned below; cf. however paragraph 5.
5. The public authorities have the following options, when golf clubs are located on public land:
  - Maintain the existing, more restrictive agreements on phasing out the use of plant protection products.
  - Relax the existing agreements, thereby allowing limited use in accordance with the guidelines mentioned below.

The same rules apply for new golf courses.

## **Guidelines for the use of plant protection products**

6. The use of plant protection products is permitted in the following cases, on the condition that use is minimized as far as possible:

On greens and tees when used to combat definite fungus attacks and damage from insects. The Danish Golf Union is required to issue guidelines to all golf clubs on when limited use of plant protection products is acceptable.

On fairways against weeds in the first year after construction, when reconstructing an existing golf course, or exceptionally to treat specific patches of weed on the golf course. The

exceptional treatment of specific patches against weeds is on the condition that golf clubs annually report their use and the size of area to the Danish Golf Union, and consultants inspect the golf course at least every 5 years and obtain evidence that the recommended care, in the form of mechanical treatment of fairways, has been applied.

In connection with constructing and renovating asphalt roads and paths.

To combat Giant Hogweed in accordance to the guidelines issued earlier to municipalities, counties and Government institutions.

### **Development, green accounting and reporting**

7. The Danish Golf Union is required – in cooperation with relevant research institutes – to continue research into alternative methods to combat diseases and pests.
8. The Danish Golf Union is required to support the golf clubs in the preparation of green accounts and to develop nature and environmental expertise at the clubs. The Danish Golf Union is also required to promote sharing of knowledge between golf clubs with regard to the appliance of alternative methods of combating diseases and pests.
9. With effect from 1 January 2006 all golf clubs are required to report annually their use of plant protection products, area etc. The contracting parties will later agree upon the actual content of these reports. The Danish Golf Union shall report annually on the total use of plant protection products by member golf clubs to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.
10. Every 3 years the Danish Golf Union shall report the aggregate use of plant protection products to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. On the basis of this, the parties involved will consider the need for further initiatives to maintain the objective and sub-goal of this agreement.

This agreement shall enter into force upon signature..

Copenhagen, 21 June 2005

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The Danish Golf Union

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Minister for the Environment

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**Local Government Denmark**