



In 2017, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, started a national initiative requiring its chapters in all 50 states to develop a state specific, best management practices manual by 2020. The Maine Chapter of the GCSAA worked with the other five state golf course superintendent associations in New England, in collaboration with the New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation and the Universities of Connecticut and Massachusetts, to produce a manual of best management practices to foster improved environmental sustainability and stewardship on New England golf courses. The *Best Management Practices for New England Golf Courses* document was published through this collaborative effort in February 2020.

The Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association then took the additional step in adapting this regional manual to create a state-specific manual for golf course management in Maine with the help of FB Environmental as well as numerous state entities such as the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Maine Landscape & Nursery Association, the Maine DEP, the University of Maine, the State of Maine Board of Pesticides Control, Environmental Solutions and Maine Licensed Landscape Architects.

The 200 page, state-specific manual, *Best Management Practices for Maine Golf Courses*, was published by the MGCSA in January 2021. This manual is broken down into 12 chapters:

- 1) Planning, Design & Construction
- 2) Irrigation
- 3) Water Quality Management & Protection
- 4) Water Quality Monitoring
- 5) Golf Turf Fertilization & Nutrient Management
- 6) Cultural Practices
- 7) Integrated Pest Management
- 8) Pesticide Management
- 9) Pollinators
- 10) Maintenance Operations
- 11) Sustainable Landscaping In Out Of Play Areas
- 12) Energy Management

Taking the state-specific manual one step further, I have created a local document outlining how Val Halla has adopted these BMP's at our facility. Some of these practices were already being done while others were years in the making. Through the support of the Town, the hard work of my dedicated staff and the help of many volunteers from the community, I am not only able, but proud to showcase our sustainable operation and our environmental stewardship.

Toby S. Young  
Golf Course Superintendent

