Environmental Session

Move forward with Nature and the commitment to Responsible Golf Course Management

FEGGA
FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATIONS

- Opening and welcome :Koert Donkers(FEGGA)

- Sustainable greenkeeping and…..

- Grass Species :Olaf Bos (Barenbrug)
- Fertilisers :Russell Riley (Sustane)
- Water Management :Michael Fance (Aquatrolls)

- Short break

- A Focus on Challenges and Initiatives in Ireland

:Dr Úna Fitzpatrick (Irish National Biodiversity Centre)

- Isn’t it time to let people know how green golf clubs really are?

:Jonathan Smith (GEO)

- A global perspective looking at Biodiversity and conclusions from the Environment survey carried out by FEGGA

:Koert Donkers (FEGGA)

A global perspective looking at Biodiversity and conclusions from the Environment survey

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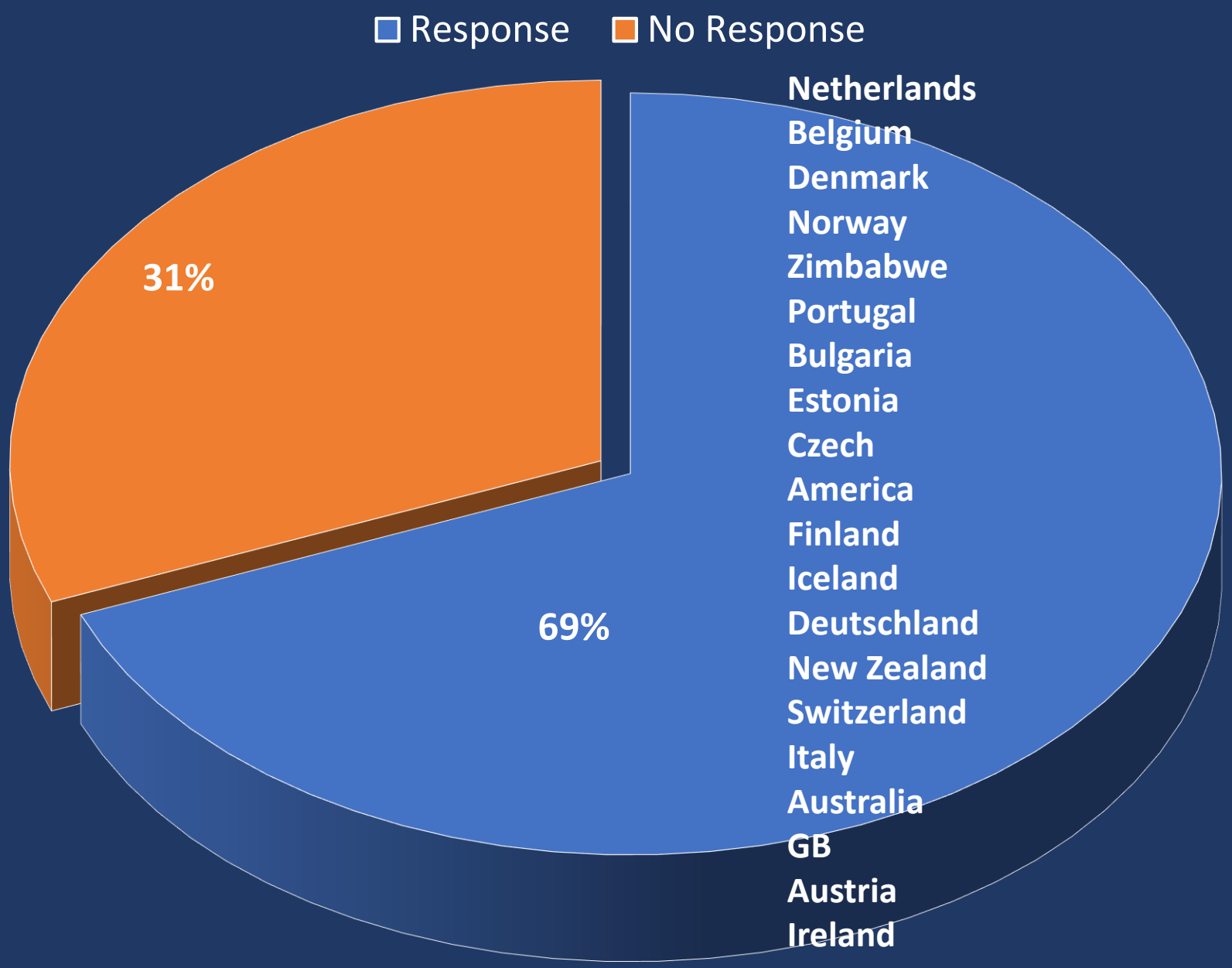
RESPONSE


Response
No Response
31%
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Belgium
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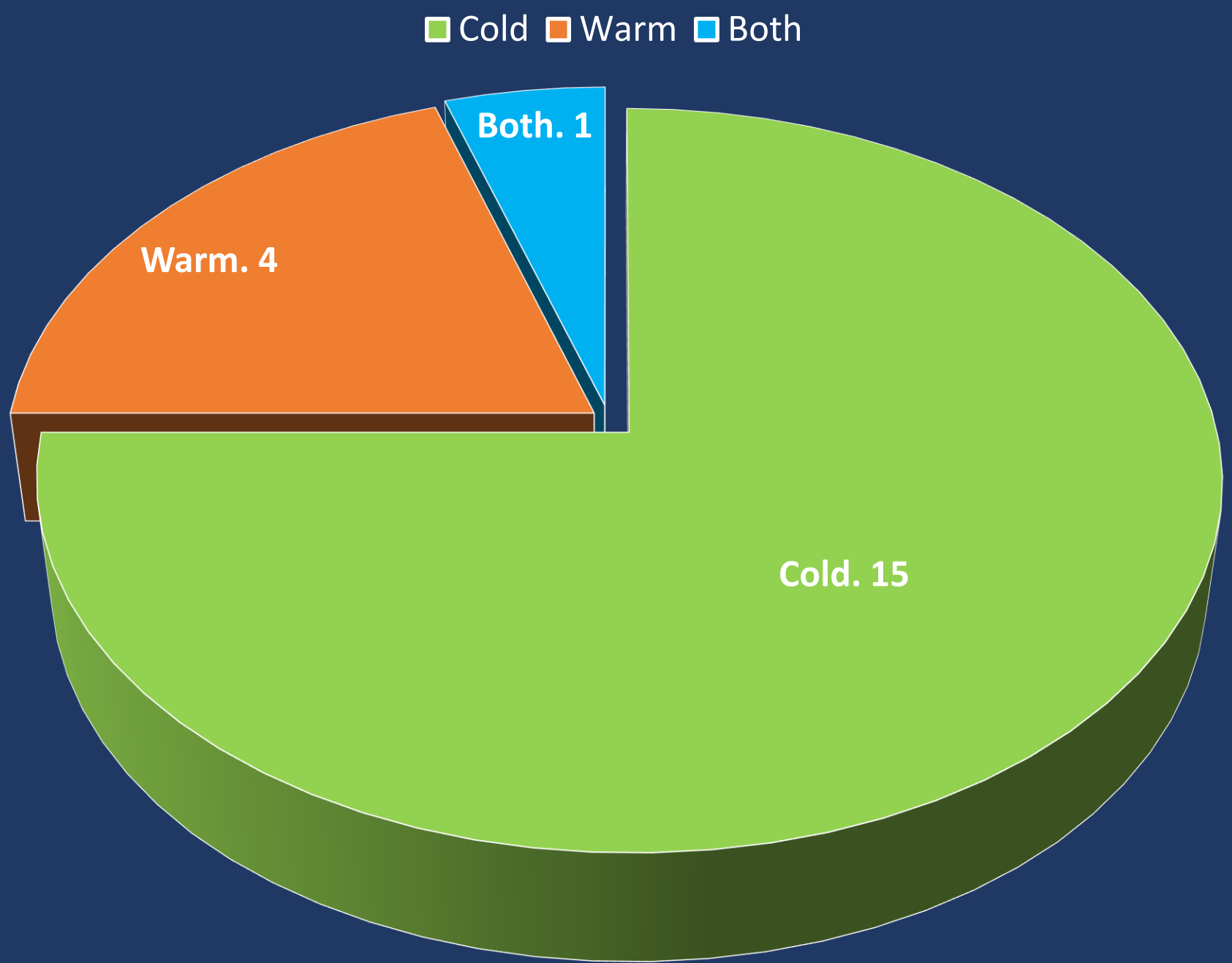
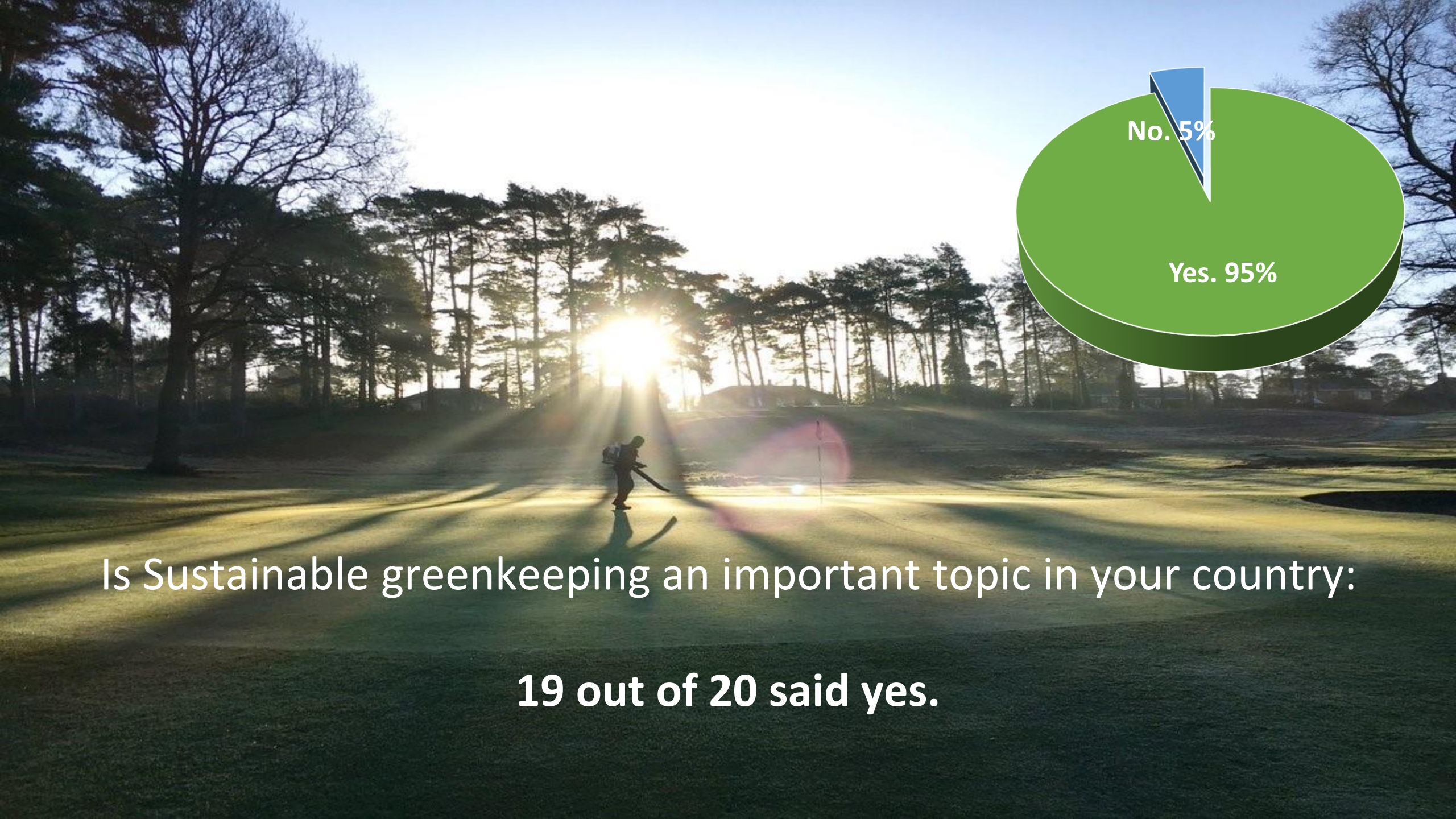
Cold or Warm Grasses



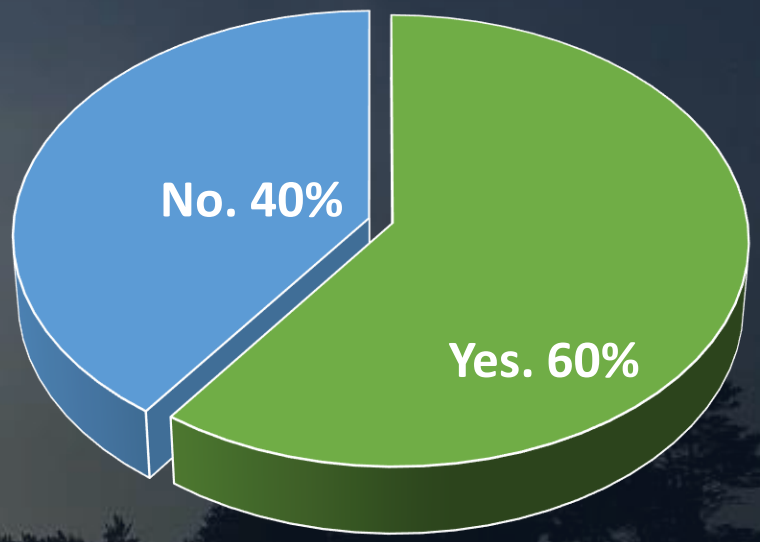


Is Sustainable greenkeeping an important topic in your country:

19 out of 20 said yes.

In general, what is the attitude of golfers in your country to Wildlife Improvement measures on the golf course:

15 out of 20 said positive.
3 out of 20 said Negative.
2 out of 20 said Neutral.

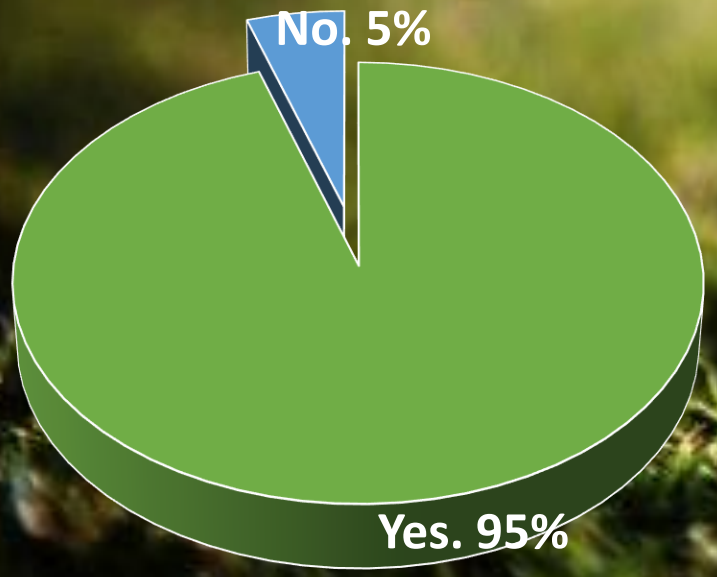


Is the decline of biodiversity a topic within Greenkeeping- and the Golf Association of your country:

12 out of 20 said yes.
8 out of 20 said No.

Do you see golf being able to help slow / reverse any decline of biodiversity in your country:

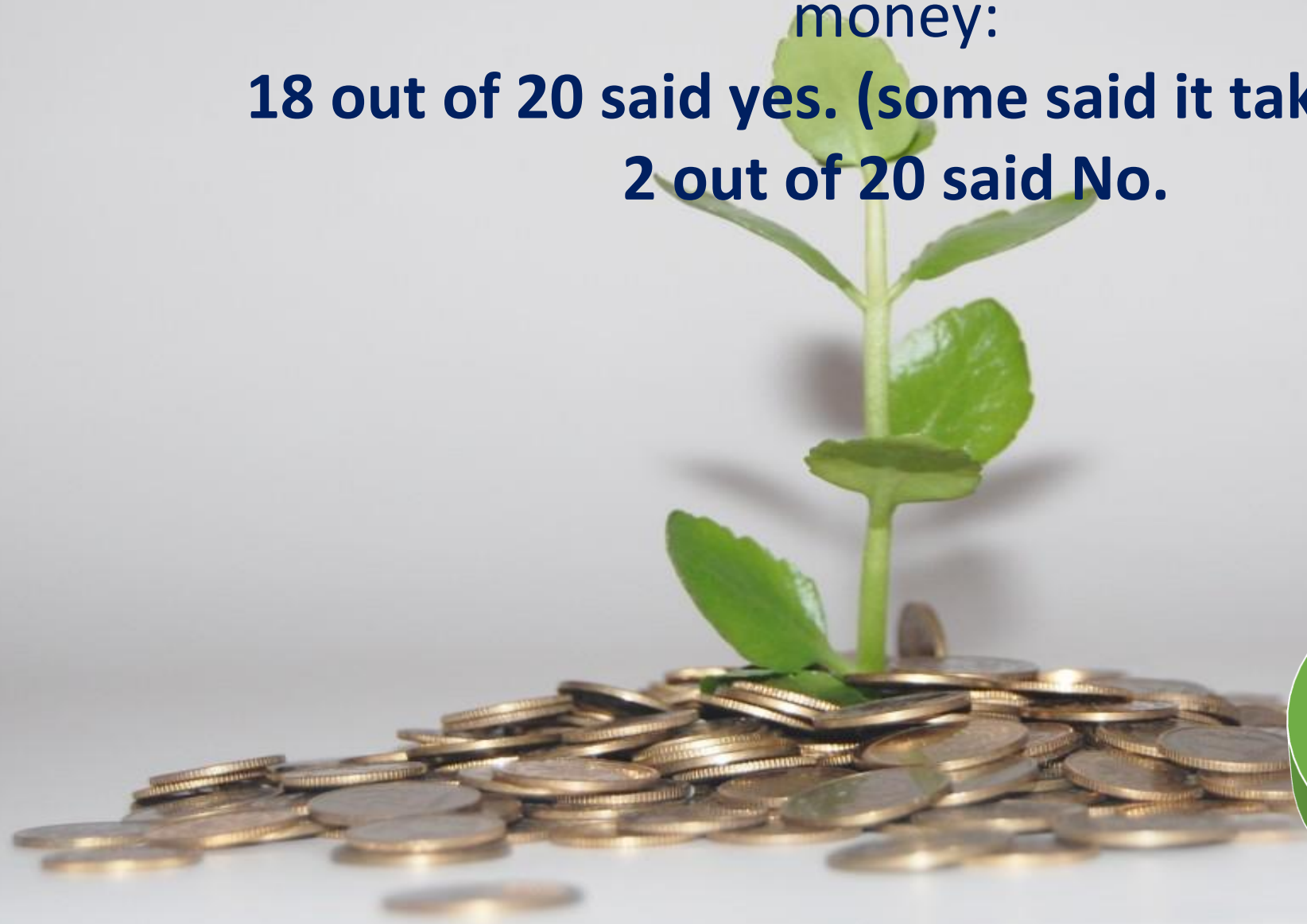
19 out of 20 said yes.
1 out of 20 said No.

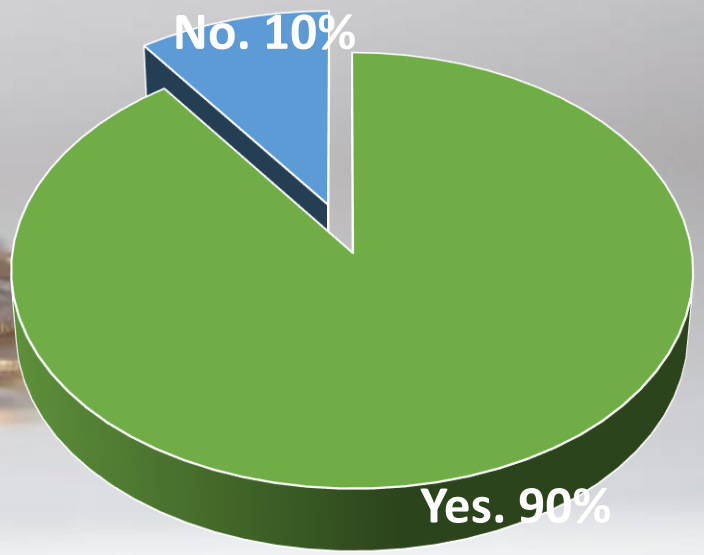


In your opinion does sustainable greenkeeping cost money or will it save money:

18 out of 20 said yes. (some said it takes time)

2 out of 20 said No.

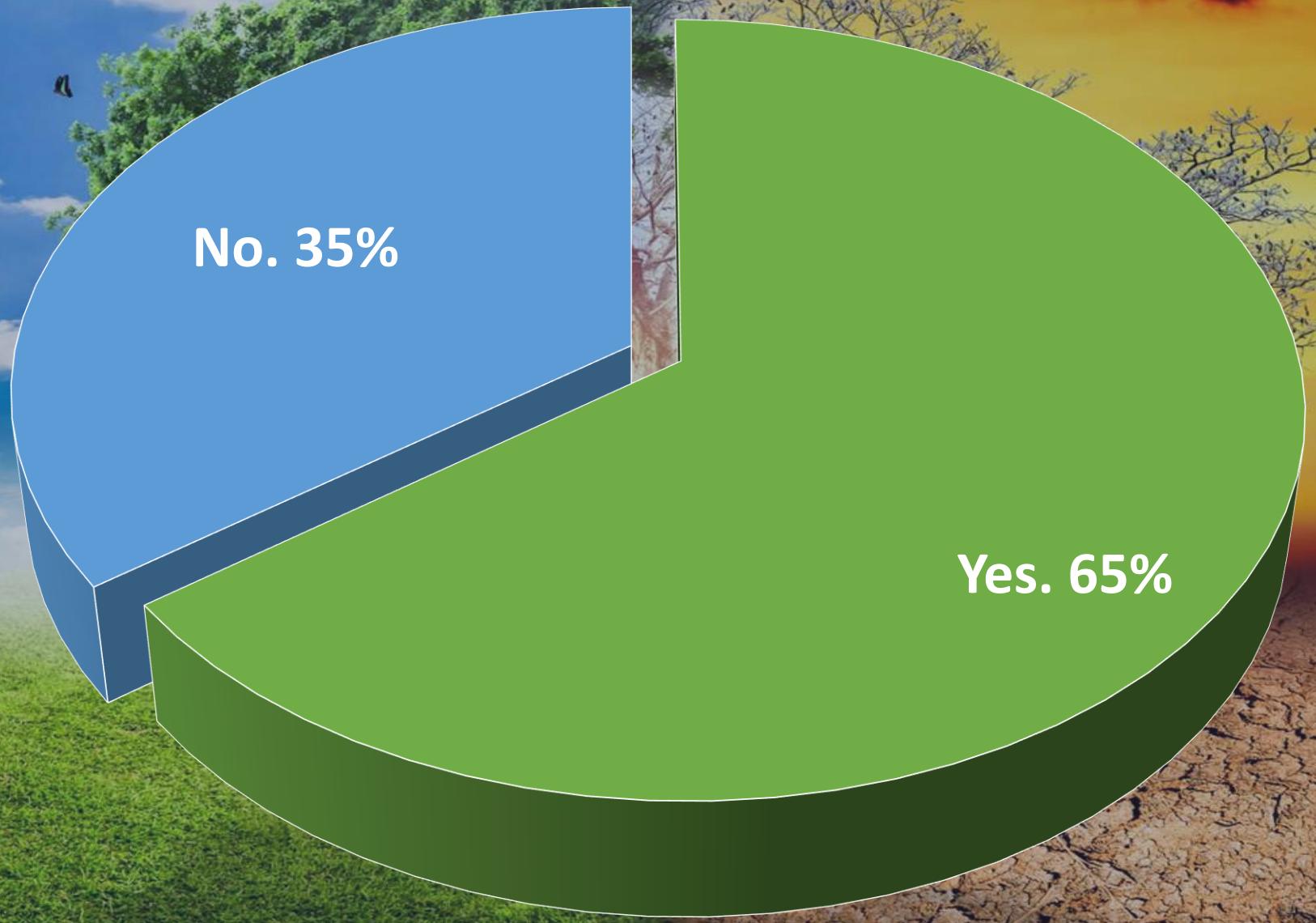




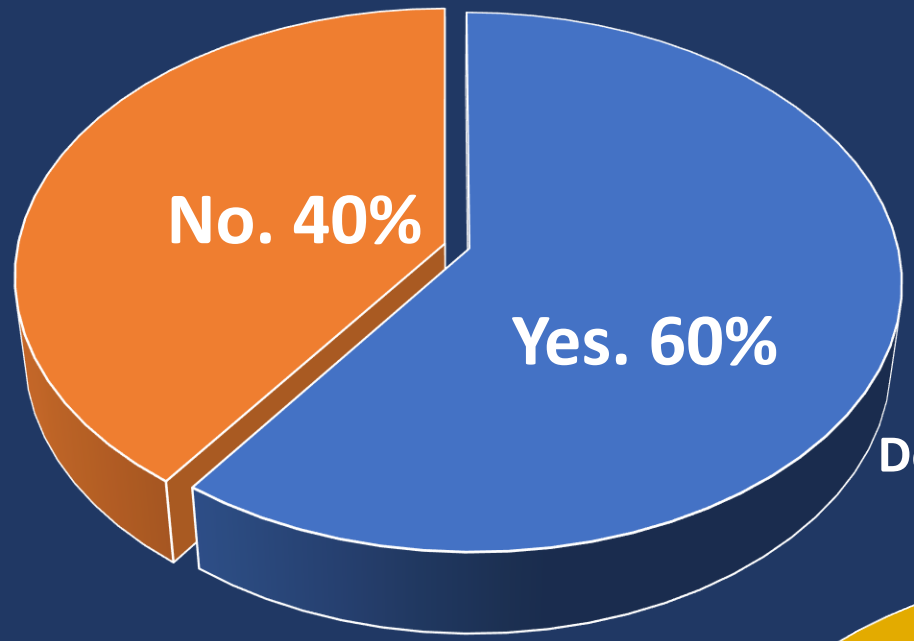
Is there a public awareness of the potential changes within golf course maintenance brought about by increasing limitations on pesticides, fertilizers and water:

7 out of 20 said yes.
13 out of 20 said No.

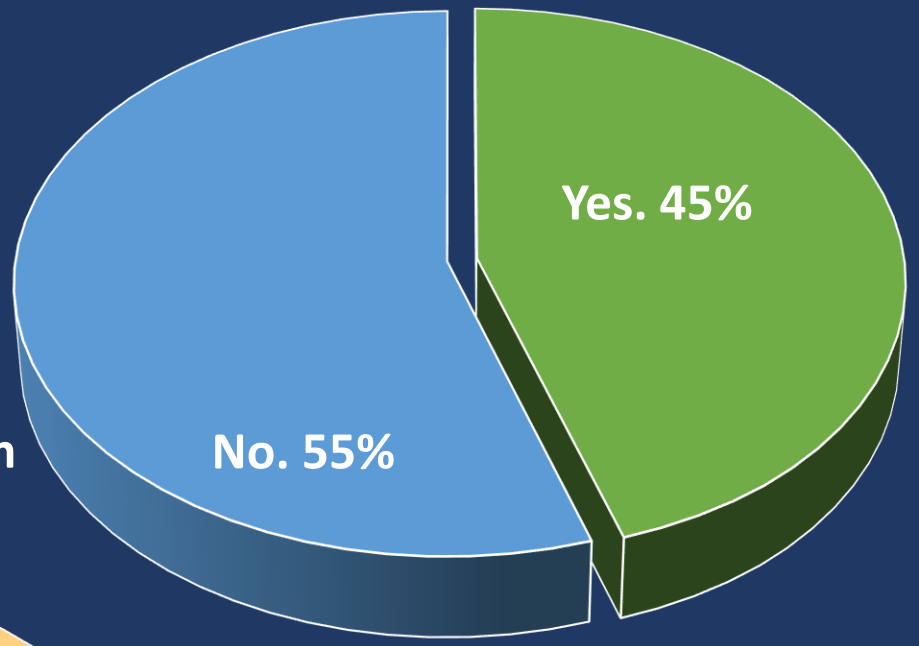
Is climate change a topic within Golf clubs and greenkeeping?



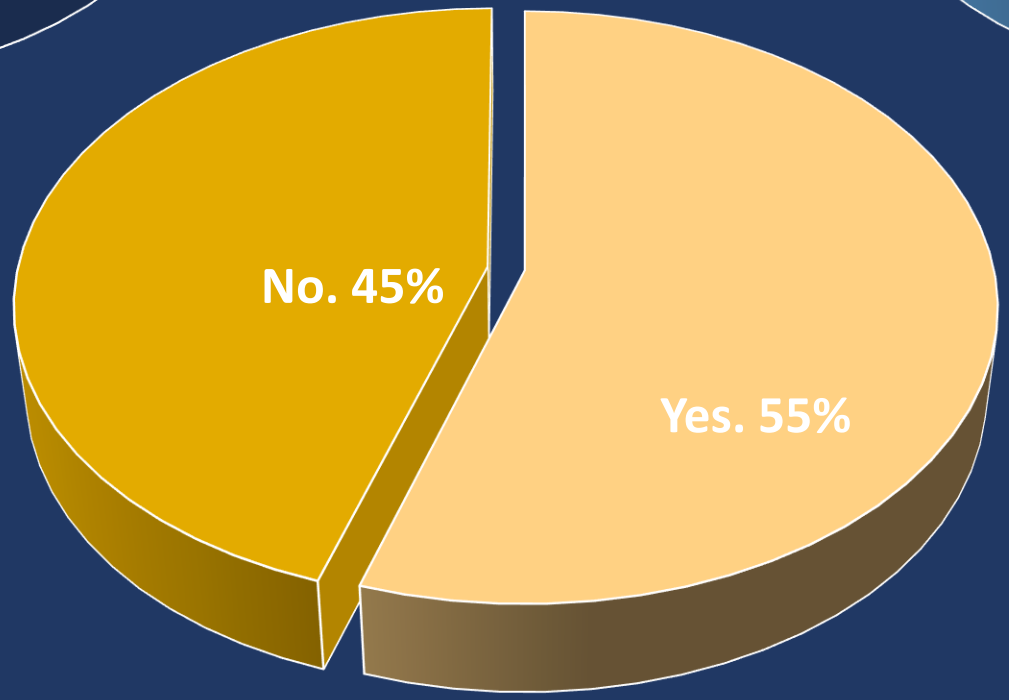
Is clean energy a topic within greenkeeping?



Is clean energy being motivated by gouvernement?



Do golf clubs readily invest in renewable energy?



Mostly costs and sometimes awareness are the biggest barriers to prevent Golf Clubs to increase the amount of renewable energy according the questionnaire.

Is research being into sustainable greenkeeping being undertaken in your country?

12 out of 20 said yes

8 out of 20 said no

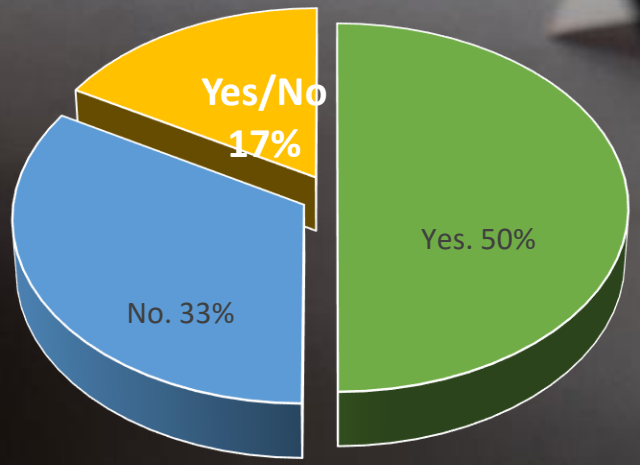
Mostly university or commercial research.

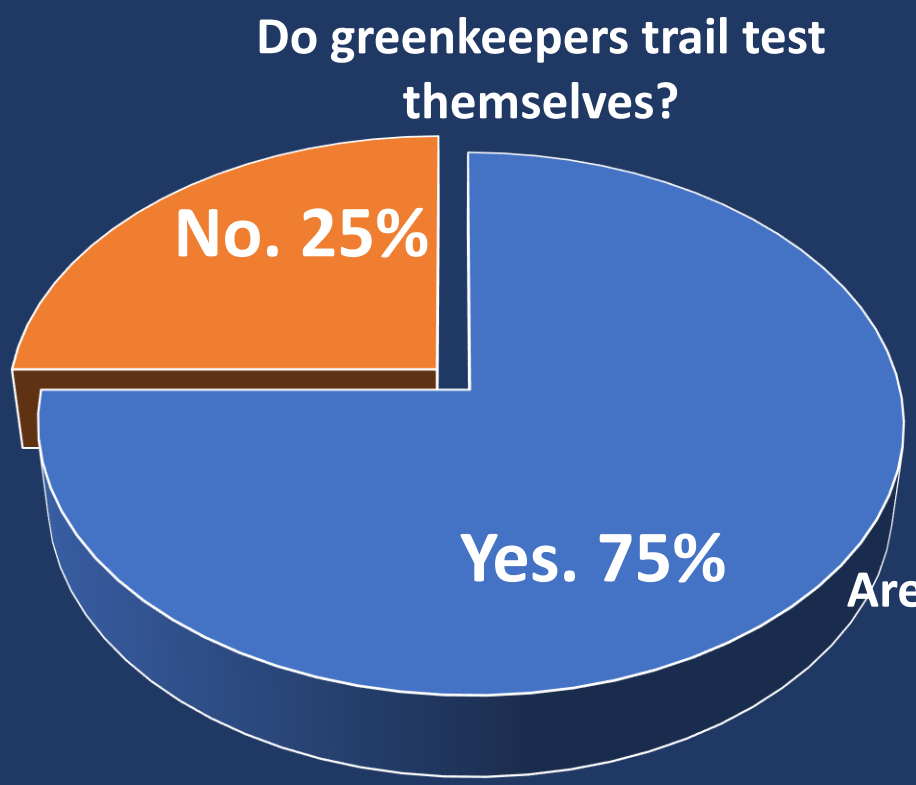
Are results available and being used?

6 out of 12 said yes

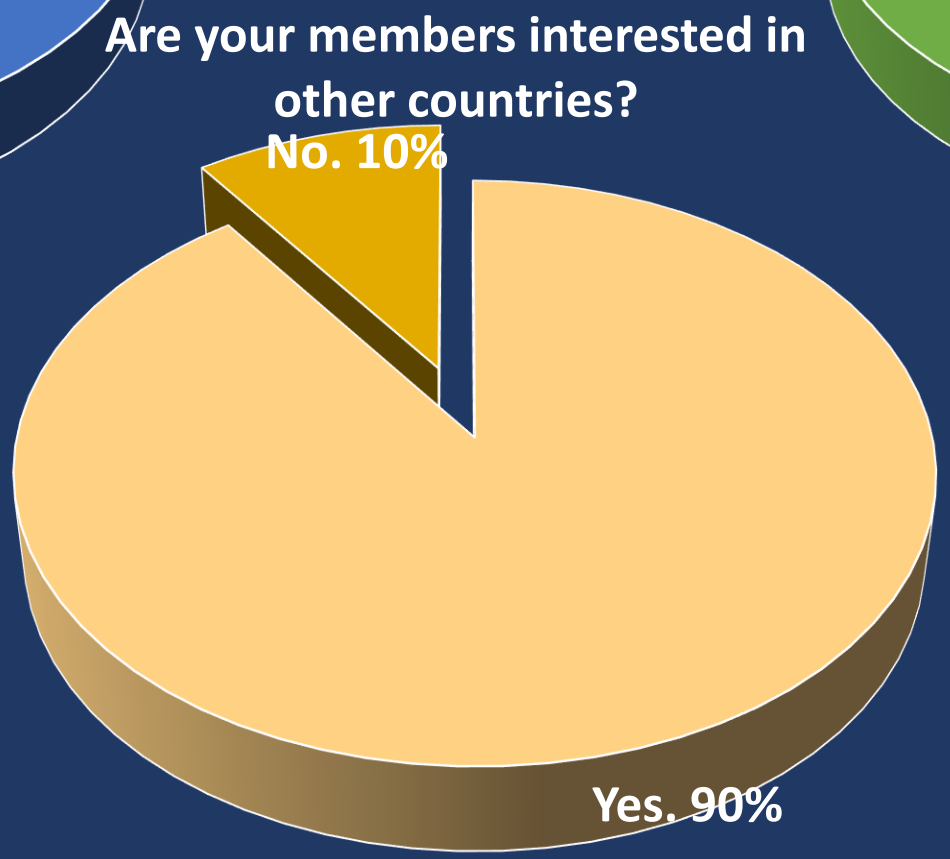
4 out 12 said no

2 out of 12 said yes/no

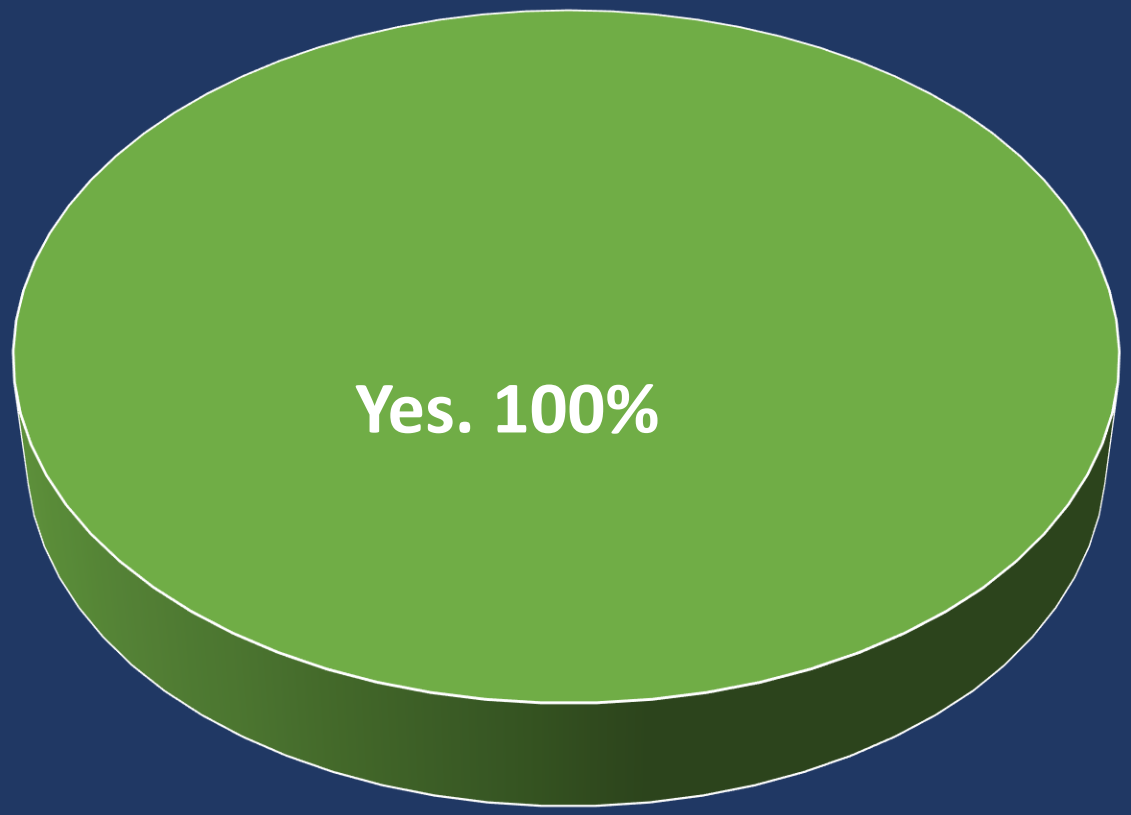



Do greenkeepers trail test themselves?
No. 25%
Yes. 75%

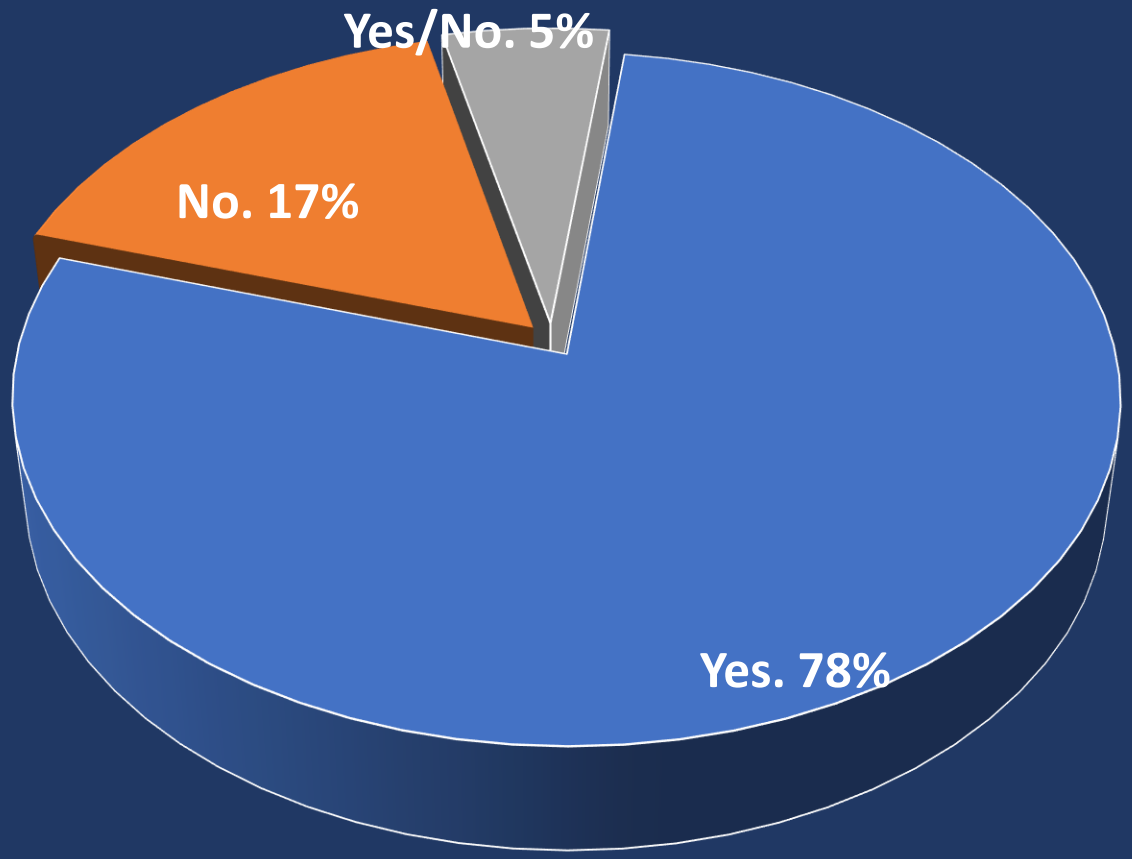
Are Good and Best Practices being shared?
No. 10%
Yes. 90%


Are your members interested in other countries?
No. 10%
Yes. 90%

Can FEGGA play a role?



Can GolfCourse 2030 help?



How exactly could greenkeepers best give input into GolfCourse 2030:

Sharing good practices and results of trials made

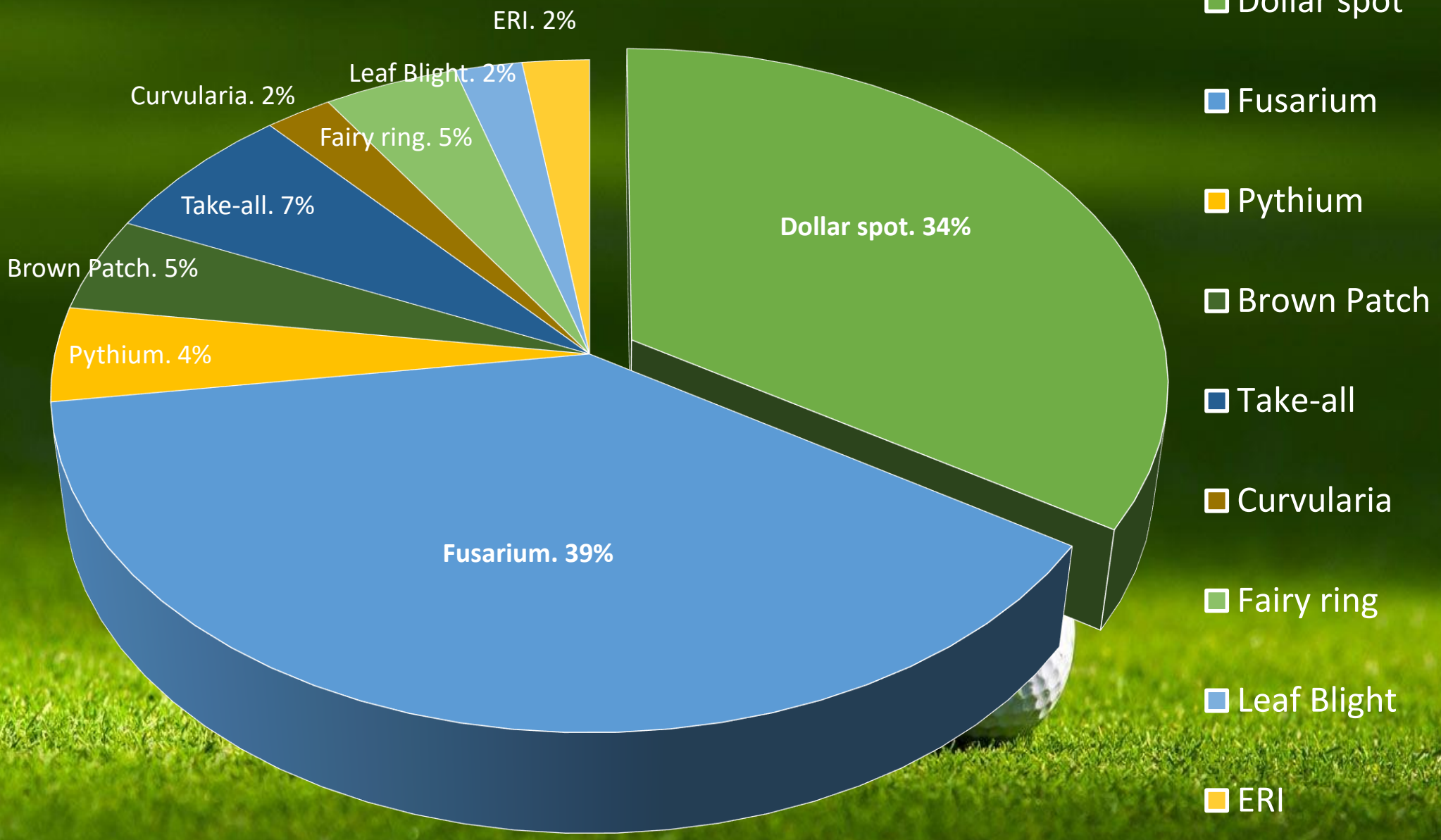
yes, but GC2030 still not well known

They can best give input through writing out proposals on how best they can implement sustainable golf course maintenance projects and help improve biodiversity on their course, thus working in line with the GC2030 theme.

Respond to surveys, data requests etc. Ensure employers are aware of the initiative

Do not think GolfCourse 2030 is suitable yet for our market.

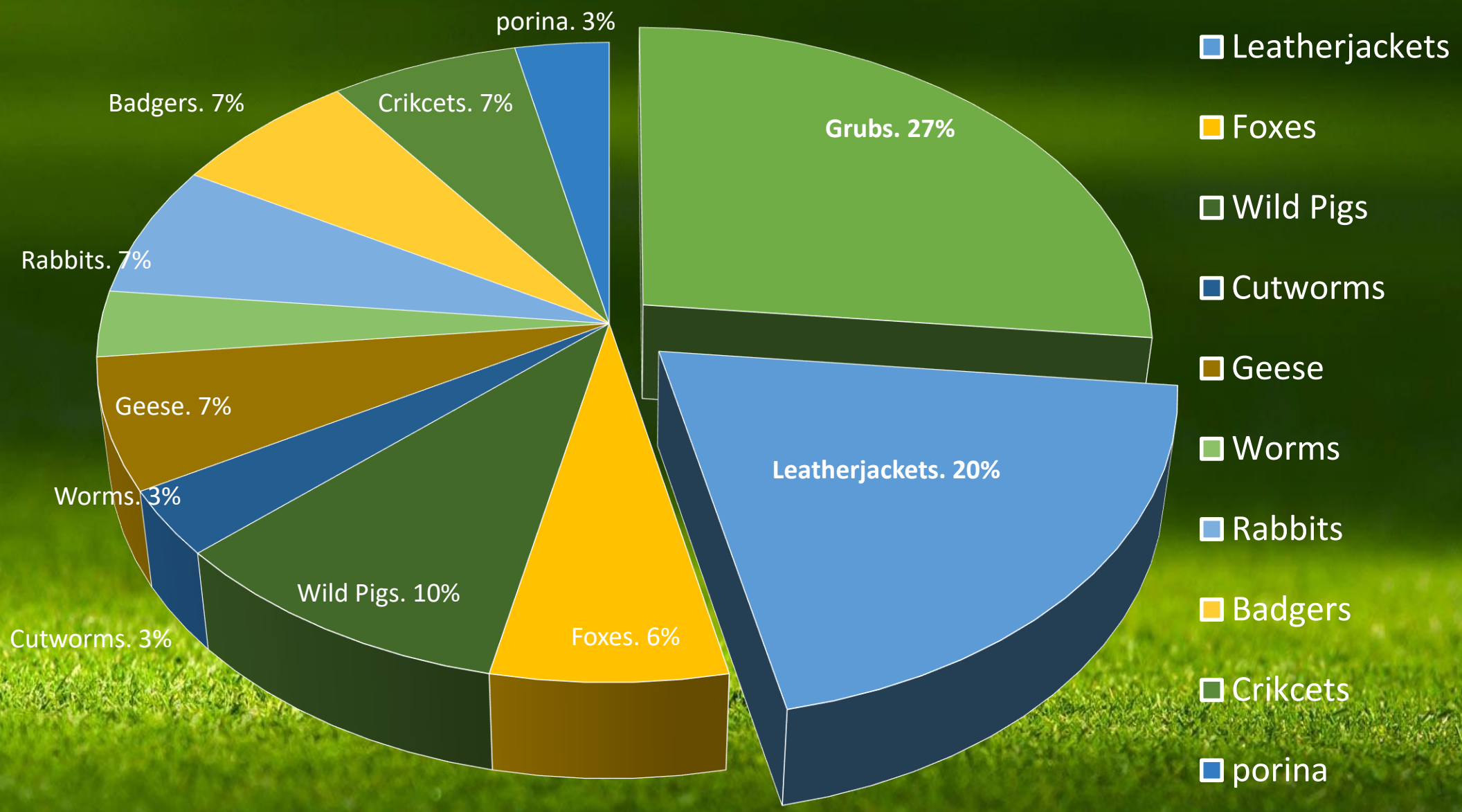
Main diseases



What techniques are available:

some chem/ and sound practices
More sand/ Bio stimulants
Pesticides, poor..
IPM
Limited chemical usage
Use of fungicides
Every
All sorts of agriculture products. Nothing for golf and amenity
Agronomical and chem
Cultural, nutrient, bio-products, and chemistry
IPM, Fungicides (5 products atm.), chemical free ways are being investigated
Fungicides and practical management.
Field and backpack sprayer
Mostly chemical control
Mainly Agronomy
Chemical primarily
Preventative fungicides only. Nutrition, Cultural practices, Bio stimulants
FUNGICIDES
Pesticides and cultural control

Main diseases



Golfers expectation?

High(100%)

Use of pesticide: Product availability (active ingredients)

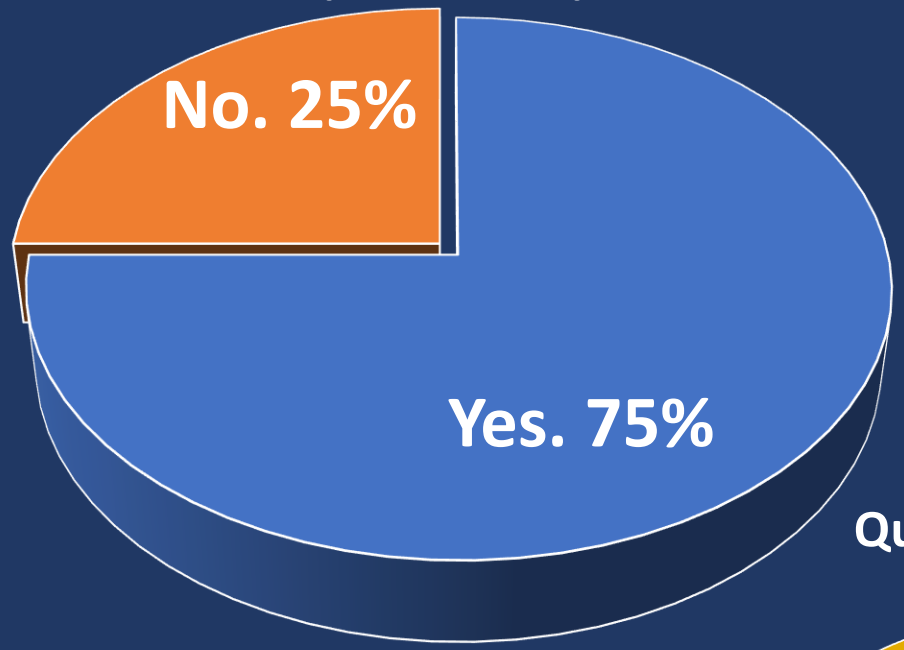
Overall less and less available, average 4 products or less.

Several countries like Italy and Estonia have none left.

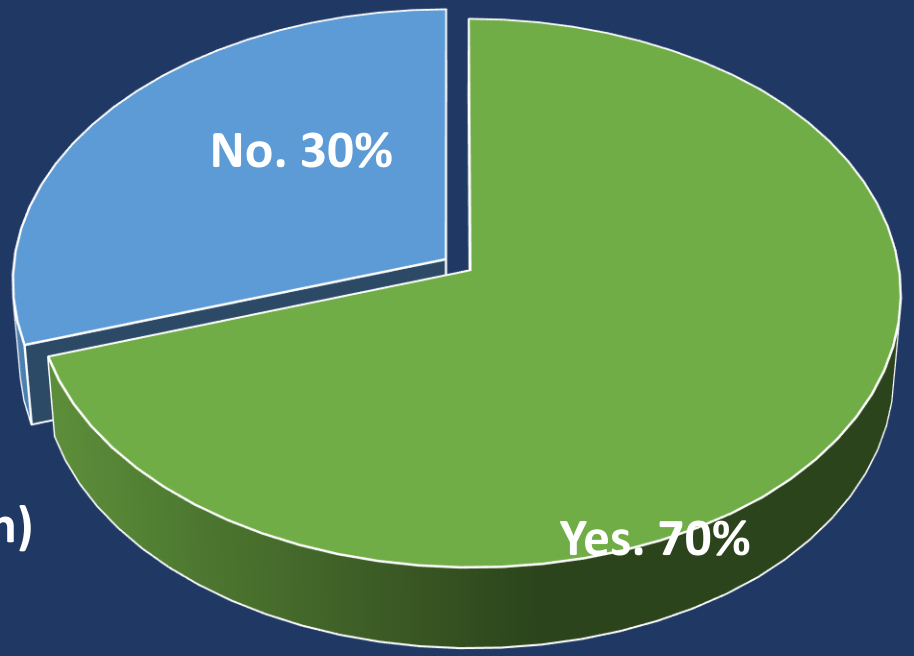
Significant difference between Europe and outside of Europe.

Is it a challenge or not?

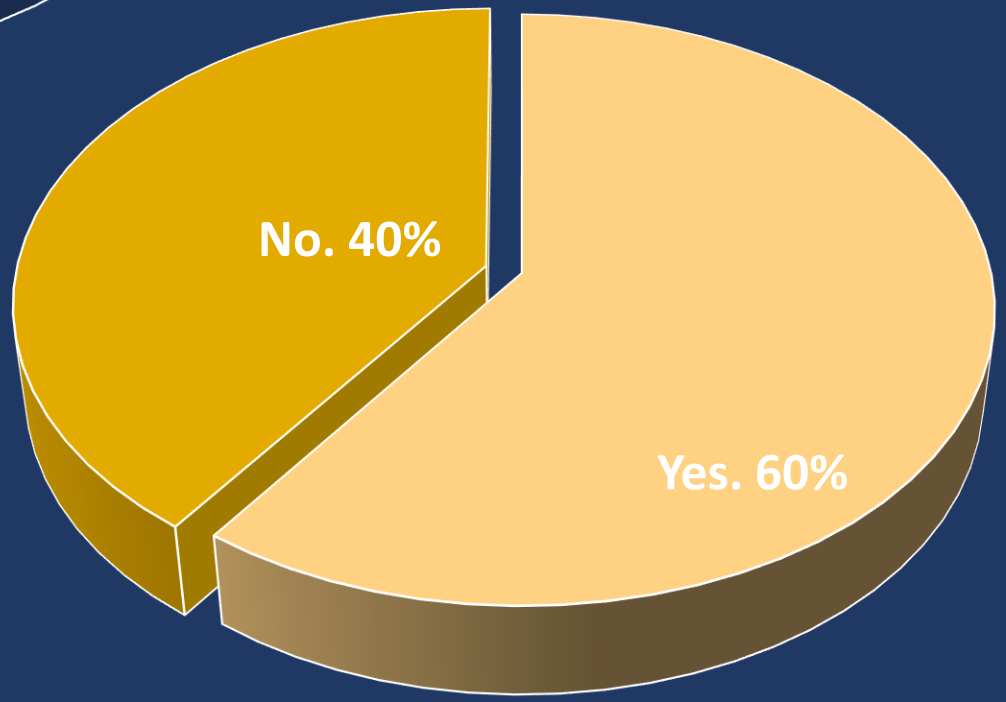
Use of ground water. (limitations)



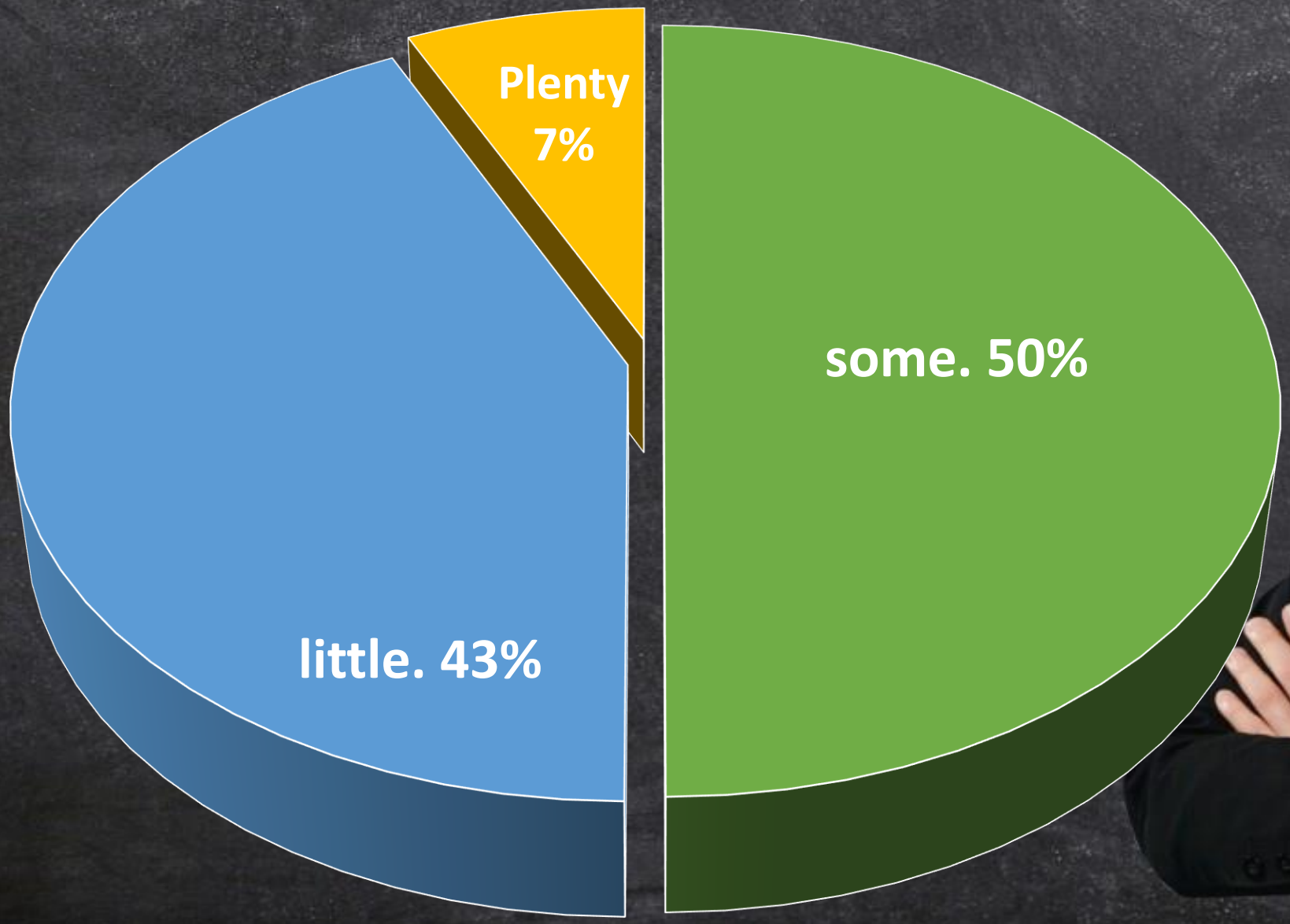
Surface water. (limitations)



Quality of water. (salt or clean)



How much education is available for water management?



Where in your opinion could FEGGA or the International Summit of Greenkeeping Associations help?

Sharing of best practice data
management

Perhaps in collecting usage data

Make universal promotional material to be used in each country to draft new personnel.

Maybe an good commercial that can be shown at furious events an on the social canals.

FEGGA may help by getting to do awareness's on the importance of tackling climate change

sustainability course maintenance to golf club management or chairman's

Pesticides, water use and research along southern part of Europe.

spreading more information within the industry via associations

Perhaps it would be possible to achieve more through international associations. But for this to happen, the image of the golf courses must be improved. Especially with regard to water use and PPP use.

Communication to the public about environmental positives from golf courses.

Make golf clubs and golfers aware for GolfCOurse 2030, for sustainable managment,

Any common issue shared is benficial to all parties. Any information recieved would be welcomed.

Sharing good practice, particularly in the areas of managing with limited active ingredients, engaging with regulators, water management.

Bundle knowledge and recourses to push insight and knowledge further.

Winter issues which are typical in the north

speak as one and communicate the issues/challenges facing greenkeepers and through learning from each other provide potential solutions to mitigate the issues/challenges.

Showing more possibilities/results not using fungicides

it would be helpful to get some guidelines and examples how things have been done at other places.

FEGGA and the ISGA should support the Best Management Practices program GCSAA offers in light of sustainability and best use of resources for golf course management.