Turf Industry Roundup

Ciba-Geigy buys Vero Beach-based maker of Logic

Ciba-Geigy, manufacturer of turf and ornamental chemicals based in Greensboro, N.C., has acquired Maag Agrochemicals, Inc. a Vero Beach-based producer of agricultural chemicals, including Logic fire ant bait.

The company also has reached a marketing agreement with Biosys, a producer of biological insect-control products.

Dr. Don Taylor, senior technical support specialist with Ciba-Geigy Turf and Ornamental Products, recently received the Third Annual Outstanding Industry Award from the Weed Science Society of America. Taylor also recently was elected president of the North Central Weed Science Society.

Mickey Lovett and Mike Oleykowski have joined Ciba-Geigy’s Turf and Ornamental Products group as marketing representatives. Lovett, who will represent the group in North Florida, returns from the company’s agriculture division. He lives in Odessa. Oleykowski’s territory will be the Middle Atlantic states.

Pennant liquid herbicide by Ciba-Geigy has been approved by the EPA for use on zoysiagrass and on more than 50 different ornamentals.

Michael L. Dietrich has been named manager of Lesco’s lawn care sales division. He joined Lesco, based in Rocky River, Ohio, from ChemLawn in 1988 as lawn care custom account manager.

Greensmix, a division of Wisconsin-based Faulks Bros. Construction Inc., has opened a Pacific Rim division, starting with six courses on the island of Guam.

Michael E. Anderson is the Toro Company’s new director of sales for commercial products. He had been vice president of national sales for the Waterous Company, which supplies hydrants and valves to municipalities. He will work out of the company’s corporate headquarters in Minneapolis.

L.T. Walden is the new president of the E-Z-Go golf car division of Textron. He was named vice president for customer service in 1984 and executive vice president in 1989 and given the additional title of general manager last year. E-Z-Go is based in Augusta, Ga.

Rain Bird’s new customer tour program will bring its irrigation customers to company headquarters in Glendora, Calif., in groups of 50-60 for three days of tours, demonstrations and discussions.

Todd Jerred is the new vice president of sales and marketing for Ransomes Inc. Bud Muser is the Wisconsin-based equipment manufacturer’s new director of customer service.

PanaSea Plus is a new organic biostimulant that reduces thatch while it increases root mass, according to Emerald Isle, Ltd., the manufacturer. The product is a combination of liquefied sea plant extracts pro-
cessed to preserve naturally-occurring cytokinins. The manufacturer claims its product has the highest level of cytokinins available in any commercial biostimulant and is natural, organic and non-toxic.

Tom Clark of Kensington, Md. was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects during the organization’s 45th annual meeting in England. Other officers elected were Arthur Hills, Toledo, Ohio, vice president; Gerald Matthews, Lansing, Mich, secretary; Donald Knott, Palo Alto, Calif., treasurer.

Among the association’s governors are Ed Seay of Ponte Vedra and Tom Fazio of Jupiter.

The Florida Foliage Association’s annual convention will be July 18-21 at Sonesta Sanibel Harbour Resort in Fort Myers.

Karen E. Pruitt is the association’s new manager of marketing and membership.

Chuck Yash, vice president and general manager of Spalding Sports Worldwide’s golf products group, has been elected chairman of the National Golf Foundation’s board of directors. He succeeds Glenn Rupp, who resigned his board position after stepping down as president of Wilson Sporting Goods Co.

Other officers elected were Wally Uihlein, president and CEO of Titleist & Foot-Joy Worldwide, vice chairman; Ed Van Dyke, president of True Temper Sports, secretary; Peter Bonanni, publisher of Golf Magazine, treasurer.

A federal jury in Topeka, Kan., awarded the former executive director of the GCSAA $1.4 million in a lawsuit over events surrounding his departure from the organization eight years ago.

James McLoughlin, who held the GCSAA’s top administrative post from 1980 to 1983, was awarded $457,000 for breach of separation agreement and $1 million for libel — $500,000 compensatory damages and $500,000 punitive damages.

McLoughlin, now a successful international golf consultant based in Pleasantville, N.Y., claimed he had been forced to resign in 1983 in the face of false charges of mismanagement, embezzlement and moral impropriety.

“The rumors and allegations against me were believed and repeated by most in the golf industry,” said McLoughlin. “It has taken eight years to collect the evidence, present it to a jury and to correct the record.”

In a news release following the trial, McLoughlin’s attorney said his client termed the verdict “a vindication for the golf course superintendent’s profession and the three presidents he served under at GCSAA from 1980-1983: Mel Lucas of South Dartmouth, Mass.; Mike Bavier of Chicago, Ill., and Jim Wyllie of Toronto, Ontario.”

“GCSAA does not agree with the verdict and will file post-trial motions and vigorously pursue an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit to reverse the award,” said GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli, president, in a prepared statement released May 13.

“The award and subsequent appeals processes will have no effect on GCSAA’s business operations or membership services.”