Seed industry wins time
Search heats up for long-term solution to controlling disease

BY MARK LESLIE
The Oregon seed industry has won a reprieve from frightening legislation to ban field-burning, and researchers have recharged efforts to find long-term answers to the issue.

"It's status quo for 1989," said Dr. William C. Young, Extension agronomist at Oregon State University.

The Oregon House voted 34-26 against a bill that would reduce the number of seed-producing acreage that could be burned. Field-burning is the basic means the state's 800 seed growers use to purge their fields of weeds and disease and prepare the land for the next crop.

The case is crucial to the nation's golf courses because Oregon's 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass, Chewings and creeping red fescues seed, half the U.S.-grown tall fescue seed, and about one-fourth its bluegrass seed.

Growers have burned their fields for decades, and in 1971 the legislature enacted a bill that would phase out the burning. But the lawmakers in 1979 stopped the phaseout at 250,000 acres. A renewed move to ban the burning altogether was galvanized last year when one farmer was burning a field and the wind changed direction, blowing smoke onto a major highway and causing a seven-death, 37-car pileup.

"Intense" is how Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council, described feelings surrounding the debate in the state House and Senate.

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Hyundai set to make its move

BY MARK LESLIE
Hyundai Precision and Ind. Co., Ltd. will make its long-awaited entry into the American golfing arena when it exhibits its new golf car at the PGA's West Coast Golf Show in August.

Kwang-Heum Um, sales manager for Hyundai Precision in the United States, said the four-wheel-drive gas or electric-powered golf car will be displayed at the Long Beach, Calif., Convention Center on Aug. 19-21 and he hopes to have it on the marketplace nationwide next February.

"We hope to find good dealers and distributors for our product at the West Coast show. We will show our product to them then," Um said, adding that Hyundai is not negotiating with any dealers now.

He said Hyundai also will start developing its own design for golf cars and plans to introduce it after the West Coast show.

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Sod suddenly making sense

BY MARK LESLIE
Sodding a golf course, an idea that once seemed a staggering expense, is worthwhile today to some people.

While Arizona State University has the luxury of allowing one year for its new Pete Dye-designed Karsten Golf Course to grow in from seed, many developers want — even need — to get players on the course much sooner to start paying back on their investment.

Developers selling property around a course want to tell customers they can play golf right away, not wait the three to six months it normally takes for grass seed to grow in. And the sooner the

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Keith Foster, who is in charge of the Western United States for Arthur Hills and Associates of Toledo, Ohio, said that when considering sod for a new course the region it is located in is critical.

"If you're looking in the West you certainly don't get many rains," Foster said. "And if you were to go ahead and seed the region you're in, you'd have two or three months of decent weather before the monsoons hit out West. But if you were seeding and sprigging in August your chances of success, significant erosion, is greatly increased." Foster added, "We would almost recommend sodding courses. But, because of the front costs seem stagnating."

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