Seed Research donates funds to Ore. State

Seed Research of Oregon has donated $500 to the Turfgrass Research Program at Oregon State University. Associate Professor Tom Cook, who heads the turf research and instruction program, will use the money to continue the research being undertaken with his students.

Many golf course superintendents throughout the country are graduates of the Oregon State University program.

State cites Legends for new jobs

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism has honored The Legends Group, headed by developer Larry Young, for creating 25 new jobs at its Legends Clubhouse and Heathland Course in Myrtle Beach.

The Legends was one of 17 Grand Strand businesses recognized by Hale Irwin, an outspoken proponent of the city, who has received the 2012 Legends Award in recognition of his business and civic leadership.

The award was named after the national marketing initiative of the South Carolina Tourism, and represents a variety of community service projects, through the Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc., honors individual golf course superintendents, who “through word, deed or part of routine business practice, work to enhance the reputation of South Carolina.”

Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc., supports a variety of community service programs, including the Hale Irwin Children’s Hospital Golf Tournament and Hale Irwin’s Clubs For Kids (the largest children’s golf clinic in the United States) as well as other charitable activities.

Irons volunteered earlier this year to star in a television public service announcement promoting the region.

Irons said, “This agreement for research support and marketing is a win-win for the golf course industry but other turf users as well.”

The Legends Group plans to develop a community within its complex in Myrtle Beach. This complex will offer three golf courses: Heathland, which opened earlier this year; Moorland, scheduled to open in October; and Parkland, set to open in fall 1991.

Seeds group works deal with Nebraska University

The Native Turfgrass Development Group has reached an agreement with the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for exclusive worldwide rights to propagate, name and market selected seeded buffalograss cultivars.

Members of the Native Turfgrass Development Group are Arrow Seed Co., Inc. of Broken Bow, Neb.; Farmers Marketing Corp. of Phoenix, Ariz.; and Johnston Seed Co. of Enid, Okla.

Buffalograss is a native, warm-season species noted for its short, slow, stoloniferous growth habit. It needs less mowing, water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Dr. Terrance P. Riordan, turfgrass plant breeder in the university’s Department of Horticulture, and Dr. Robert M. Ahring, project leader for NTDG, have identified male and female buffalograss plants exhibiting improved turf characteristics.

Synthetic lines of buffalograss are now under production. Seed from the first harvest will be used for testing and evaluation, including entry in the national buffalograss turf trials conducted by the USDA that will be established next summer.

Riordan said: “This project has allowed us to quickly develop new cultivars of this native species for use where water use is restricted because of limited quantity. These grasses will also use less pesticides and probably reduce the amount of clippings going into landfills — both important environmental concerns.”

Mike Kenni, director of USGA Greens Section Research Committee, said, “This agreement for research support and marketing is a step toward the goal of making the new environmentally desirable cultivars available to not only the golf course industry but other turf users as well.”

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