Jacklin cultivates relations with Chinese turf industry

POST FALLS, Idaho — Jacklin Seed Co. has announced it will donate seed testing equipment to the Seed Testing Laboratory of Beijing Agricultural University.

The laboratory, valued at more than $7,000, includes a Ml S-100 Microscopic Inspection Station, a Uniron ZSM Microscope, and a 150W halogen fiberoptic light. The state-of-the-art equipment package was custom manufactured by Hoffman Manufacturing Company of Albany, Ore.

The donation was made in recognition of Beijing Agricultural University's position as the leading grass seed testing facility in China. Further, the equipment will assist with the development of seed testing standards and procedures which will be standardized with United States rules, thus facilitating joint seed trade between China and the U.S.

The donation was made during a recent trip to China by Jacklin Seed research and marketing officials. During the same trip, Jacklin was selected to be the first honorary international member of the China Pratacultural Association (CPA).

In selecting Jacklin, the CPA cited the firm's participation in and contribution to forwarding Association goals. The CPA — composed of more than 6,000 producers and marketing companies involved in seed production and reclamation throughout China — is dedicated to controlling China's seed quality standards.

Lisa Dacey and Rick Miller have joined the Domestic Marketing Department at Jacklin Seed Co. Dacey comes to Jacklin from Eastern Washington University, where she served as program manager for External Professional Development programs. Her experience includes extensive public relations work plus advertising account management with the Spokane-based firms of WhiteRunkleZack and Gross-Hatch & Associates.

ITODA names Davis executive director

The Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors Association (ITODA) has announced the appointment of Robert H. Davis as its first executive director.

The two-year-old, non-profit incorporated association, representing independent distributors whose total annual chemical purchases exceed $45 million, required professional management to guide its growth and expanded agenda, according to ITODA President Herbert Lea of Lea Green Meadows Inc. of Temple Hills, Md.

Davis comes to ITODA with more than 17 years of association management experience and will provide ITODA with a base of operations just outside Washington, D.C. For more information on the ITODA, call 703-360-2554.

Turf Merchants sold to Warren's Nurseries

The Genesis Group has reached an agreement in principle to sell its wholly owned subsidiary, Turf Merchants, Inc., to Warren's Turf Nurseries of Crystal Lake, Ill.

From the company's headquarters in Tangent, Ore., TMI General Manager Steve Tubbs explained that "customers and growers should expect business as usual" in their dealings with TML. Management, sales and operations personnel are all expected to stay on, he added.

From Warren's corporate offices in Crystal Lake, Mike Holmes, general manager of Warren's, offered some background on the acquisition: "We have been involved in discussions with the Genesis Group for several weeks now, and are pleased that these discussions have resulted in the signing of a formal purchase agreement (which took effect at the close of business on July 10).

"Warren's has been involved to a small extent in the turf seed business for nearly 30 years, going back to Ben Warren's introduction of several elite bluegrass varieties like A34 BenSun. We became more directly involved in 1990 via the acquisition of Davenport Seed Corp., a producer of both turf and reclamation seed.

"Given TML's broad product list of proprietary turfgrass seed and their extensive North American distribution network, it seems like a good fit to bring us into a fully integrated, full product and service line position in the turfgrass industry."