CENTURY RAIN, BANKS SUPPLY MERGE

Two of Florida's largest irrigation suppliers, Century Rain Aid and the irrigation division of Banks Supply have merged their Florida operations, creating a network of 10 branches across the west coast of Florida. The newly merged Banks outlets now called Century Rain Aid (Banks Irrigation Division). Century operates 22 branches in seven states, supplying irrigation equipment, pumps, landscape lighting, fountains, and drainage products to the golf market.

NAME CHANGE FOR BLOCK SYSTEMS

MINNEAPOLIS — Block Systems, Inc., creators of the Con-From, Windsor Stone, Artichoke and Sahara Stone retaining wall systems, has officially changed its name to Anchor Wall Systems, Inc. In addition, American Masonry Products, the current Minneapolis office, has merged with Anchor Wall Systems, thus joining the corporate headquarters. The merger means a comprehensive base of services offered to Anchor's customers nationwide. National divisions will include licensing, commercial, DIY/Res-ell, specifying, research and development, and marketing.

WHEELER JOINS ROOTSINC

Bruce Wheeler has been hired as the western region sales manager for ROOTSinc, a division of LISA Product Corporation. Wheeler is responsible for the distribution and sales of the company's ROOTS, ironROOTS and NorburN brand products in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico. Wheeler comes to LISA from the Con-From Com-pany in Palm Springs, where he spent two years serving the desert golf and landscape markets. He's a hands-on pest control adviser and qualified applicator.

PARKWAY ADDS CONSAN LINE

PARKWAY Research Corporation has announced the addition of the Conson product line to its operations. Acquired by Parkway in November of 1991, the Conson line includes Triple Action 20, the triple quaternary amine formula, EPA-approved for greenhouse disinfecting applications and for direct applica-tion to ornamental plants, grasses and trees. For more information on Houston-based Conson Research Corporation and the complete Conson product line, call 1-800-256-3668.

Toro puts safety tips on video

MINNEAPOLIS — The Toro Company and the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company have developed the nation's first comprehensive operator safety education program for the commercial turf main-tenance industry. Specifically designed for golf course employees, the three-pronged program video, audio and written — responds to the significant number of injuries related to turf maintenance activities. In 1989, for example, more than 75,000 turf main-tenance-related accident victims were admitted to hospital emergency rooms. In addition to human injury, the eco-nomic loss can be devastating, said Mike Billings, vice president of the St. Paul Fire and Marine's Risk Management Services Division. More than 25 percent of workers' compensation claims by golf course main-tenance employees are mower related, said Billings, who noted this results in an aver-age cost of $3,600 per claim.

"We're addressing the need for an easy-to-understand yet thorough safety program that stresses how critical it is to routinely follow safety measures when operating turf equipment," said Billings. Added Jim Seifert, senior attorney for Toro: "The ultimate goal for both compa-nies is to see a drop in the number of accidents associated with cutting equipment. We want to correct the 'I-cant-happen-to-me' attitude."

The Turf Maintenance Equipment Safety Education Program addresses 28 different safety areas related to commercial cutting equipment. Covered are procedures to fol-low before and during operation, as well as when merely working around operating equipment.

The information is delivered in a simple-language, multiple-format style which in-corporates a video tape, audio tape, written

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Government grant backs AgriDyne on pyrethrin study

SALT LAKE CITY — The United States Department of Commerce has approved a $1.2 million grant for AgriDyne Technologies Inc. to research an innovative new process for developing pyrethrin, a botanical insecticide. AgriDyne will match the Advanced Technology Program grant, spending more than $3 million over the next three years to formulate a method to increase domestic pyrethrin supplies.

"Being selected...represents outside confirmation of our pyrethrin technology."

Eric Hale
AgriDyne president

EPA considering emission controls for maintenance equipment — mowers included

BY PETER BLAIR

The Environmental Protection Agency could recommend emission control regulations for construction equipment this September and smaller motorized golf course main-tenance equipment next spring, ac-cording to Michael Scott, public liaison officer for golf course issues. No such regulations presently exist.

The EPA is testing equipment at its Ann Arbor, Mich., facility to de-Continued on page 46

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