**Lawn Institute to reestablish seal of approval**

*By Mark Leslie*

Indications are the Lawn Institute will resurrect its seal of approval for turfgrass seed.

Before the annual meeting Oct. 31, in Kansas City, Lawn Institute Executive Director Jim Brooks said: "I'm confident we will move ahead on the seal."

Once the seal of approval is given the go-ahead, the institute will write a new set of minimum standards for turfgrass seed. Brooks will try to get the seal on this season's crop, which will be packaged from November through January.

"We still have to massage the standards," he said. "They will ensure good quality seed. The seal, which has been used on and off by the lawn-care companies, previously mandated 100 percent of one variety, but the industry is going more and more to blends. Basically, we're saying at least half a mixture must be an improved variety. Then we have germination and purity figures, inert, other grasses — all standards that vary by grass.

"The Lawn Institute role would be one of a standards guarantor."

— Jim Brooks, executive director of the Lawn Institute

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**Ohio voters tackle warning label issues**

*By Martha Layne*

An initiative on the Ohio ballot this November was considered by many small businesses to be more important than the presidential election.

Ohioans considered State Issue Five, a law which would require warning labels on consumer products sold in Ohio that contain chemicals known to put people at risk of cancer or birth defects. Products would need to be labeled if they contain one of 458 chemical substances which, in high doses, have been shown to cause cancer or reproductive harm in rats. A substance is included on this list if it has caused "one case of cancer or reproductive risk in an exposed population of one million."

At press time, polls showed the measure held a fifty-two percent approval rate, down from earlier estimates. Alate advertising blitz by the measure's opponents is likely to decrease voter support even further, leaving the issue too close to call.

If passed, the regulation would seriously affect golf courses, not to mention consumers, farmers, food producers, manufacturers and retailers.

Golf courses using substances which contain any amount of the listed pollutants would need to post notification listing the pollutants and warning those on the premises. If exposures were likely to occur beyond the business premises, leaflets or warnings would be required — by direct mail — to all who reside or work within a two-mile radius of the exposed area. Notifications and leaflets would be required to read, "Warning: This area contains one or more known chemicals which are known to cause cancer (or birth defects or other reproductive harm)."

Businesses not in compliance would be subject to fines and criminal penalties, and a reward would be offered to citizens who report them.

"The measure exempts state and local governments. Opponents of the measure include Ohio Governor George Voinovich, who calls it an "inside job" of the state's law enforcement office."

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**Turf Diagnostics makes TV debut**

The "outside world" recently got a close look at Turf Diagnostics & Design, the respected golf and sports turf laboratory. During the ABC College Football Game of the Week on Oct. 3, T&D was featured in a segment showing how proper consulting and lab testing can enhance turf safety and performance.

"We look forward to telling sports fans about the tremendous impact that the turf's condition has on the performance and safety of football, baseball and soccer fields," said Steve McWilliams, president of the Olathe, Kan., firm.

The feature, which aired at the start of the Miami-Florida St. game, will air later this year — probably later this month — during an ABC Monday Night Football Game.

McWilliams, whose firm is bringing the advancements pioneered on golf turf to other sports, said he believes the movement back to natural turf, from the extensive use of artificial turf, will benefit everyone in the industry.

"A key reason for the movement back to natural turf is the performance of layered sand-based turf systems, which are used extensively in the golf industry. Layered sand-based systems are safer and more cost efficient than artificial fields."
New Blazon Paks

Milliken Chemical, manufacturer of Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator in water-soluble packets, has announced the introduction of Blazon E-Z Pak Spray Pattern Indicator in water-soluble packets. Blazon E-Z Pak is designed to combine the solubility and non-staining of liquid Blazon with the convenience of water-soluble, pre-measured packaging. Each packet will treat 25 gallons or more of tank solution.

For more information, call 803-473-7275; or write Milliken at P.O. Box 817, Inman, S.C. 29349.

CIRCLE #201

Deere introduces a new pair of Gators

John Deere has introduced two general all-purpose turf vehicles dubbed "Gators." Designed to feature aggressive traction, stability and lightfootedness, the Gator has a low center of gravity and a wide stance front end. The 10-hp Gator 4x2 rolls on four wheels with two-wheel drive and differential lock. The cargo box hauls 500 pounds and the payload capacity, with operator and passenger, is 900 pounds. The 18-hp Gator foot rolls on six wheels with four-wheel drive. The cargo box hauls 800 pounds with a total payload of 1,200. On both models, new continuously variable transmissions drive an improved heavy-duty transaxle that turns in an oil bath for long life. For more information, call 919-954-6420; or write John Deere at P.O. Box 29533, Raleigh, N.C. 27626.

CIRCLE #502

It's the better way to clean and dry golf balls.

What you're looking at is the leading edge of the tee towel technology. But that should come as no surprise. Because these green and tan beauties are the new CHIX® Deluxe Tee Towels. They're made by Chicopee, the same people who have manufactured golf's most popular tee towels for more than 25 years. Take a closer look and you'll see that they have a tough, ribbed texture that's so different, it's patented. They clean balls quickly. And they absorb a lot of moisture. So how well do they work on the course? In a recent nationwide survey, CHIX Deluxe Tee Towels were preferred by eight out of 10 golf course superintendents. We think you'll like them, too. But you'll never know for sure until you try them for yourself. For complete information, simply contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor. And put your hands on the best tee towel in golf.

Software for architectural drafting

LABB Systems/Software has added Green Thumb's computer-aided design (CAD) package, LandDesignerPro, to its line of IBM PC-compatible software products for the green and grounds maintenance industries. LandDesignerPro will create architectural landscape drawings in both plan and elevation formats. LDP has a 12-layer deep flexibility and architectural drafting symbols and a sprinkler system layout feature with the ability to test project coverage and flow usage. LABB has also completed a new video showing the role this software can play in the daily activities of a golf course superintendent. For more information, call 1-800-723-9710; or write LABB Systems/Software, 6018 East Thomas Road, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85251.

CIRCLE #203

Lawn Institute

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Laboratory-proved turfgrass varieties or blends "We have a responsibility, and we have a good environmental story to tell. We have grasses that are drought- and insect-tolerant," he said.

He said the institute also plans to develop brochures on the care of turfgrass, and to include this information in grass bags and boxes. Consumers would be told they could write free to the institute for how-to pamphlets on selecting the right grass, now, fertilize, overseed, and renovate or establish a new lawn.

"The whole idea is to try to bring the industry together to get correct information to the consumer, and talk about it to the consumer story as it relates to turfgrass," Brooks said, adding that golf course superintendents "could help us by giving this information to their club members. We've also talked about asking the PGA to put it in pro shops. Who would be more appreciative of grass than the golfer?"

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The institute wants to get the word out to the Extension Services around the country because they are often asked to recommend seed. "Extension people could say, 'You should look for seed that has the Lawn Institute seal of approval.'"

"I think everybody wants to do this. It's a matter of how we get it done. We need to have the major- ity of the industry in the program and cooperating," Brooks said.