Rutgers researchers closing in on herbicide to eradicate poa trivialis

BY PETER BLAIS

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. — One superintendent’s wonder turf is another’s weed. That’s the case with poa trivialis, commonly referred to as rough stalk bluegrass. While poa triv is fast overtaking ryegrass as the seed of choice for winter overseeding in the South and West, Northern superintendents are looking for a way to eradicate it from their cool-season turf courses.

A solution may be at hand, according to Dr. Richard Hurley, Loft Seed Inc.’s director of research.

Rutgers University researchers are closing in on a herbicide that could eradicate poa trivialis and leave other cool-season grasses standing, Hurley said during the company’s recent 17th Annual Field Day at its research farm here.

“Poa trivialis can be a problem most everywhere,” the Lofts executive said. “The seed is found in the soil, so it is bound to grow. “The problem is that it has shallow roots. That causes it to turn brown when the weather warms up come summer.”

“We don’t have it, yet. But someday there will be a herbicide to take out poa trivialis,” Rutgers is one of about 10 universities nationwide with turf breeding programs, Hurley said. Approximately 35 schools are active in turfgrass research.

Development of many of the new tall fescues and perennial ryegrasses began 25 years ago at those schools and private breeding farms, Hurley explained.

Researchers found those grasses during collection trips to old turf stands in parks and cemeteries. The hardest survivors were cross-bred and blended together to become today’s most popular grasses.

Searches have intensified the past five to six years, Hurley added.

Continued on page 40

FROM STUMP TO PULP

Hardly a year goes by without a superintendent being forced to completely remove a tree — then the tricky stump. With the gas-powered, portable Stump Grinder from Partner Industrial Products, this task isn’t so tedious. Weighing only 44 pounds, the Stump grinder can take the hardest of woods — even live oak — down below ground level. For more information on the Stump Grinder, call 1-800-323-3553. For more new products, see page 42.

Continued on page 40

Warren teams with Southern Turf Nurseries

ATLANTA, Ga. — Warren’s Turf, Inc. headquartered in Crystal Lake, Ill., has acquired most assets of Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. effective May 1.

Vendors should continue to contact local management for orders and send invoices to that address, according to Herb Hadley, general manager of sod operations. Hadley advised anyone with questions to call Corporate Controller Mark Rundle at 1-800-435-6144.

In a joint announcement from Southern Turf’s Atlanta headquarters, Mike Holmes, C.E.O. of Warren’s, and Dr. Tim Bowyer, C.E.O. of Southern Turf broadly reviewed the background for the move, and discussed future implications.

“This marriage of turfgrass companies, both sharing the highest standards of product quality and service, creates one of the largest and most geographically diverse full service turf oriented companies in the U.S., and probably the world,” noted Bowyer. “Warren’s sod production facilities in New York, Indiana, Texas, Northern California and

Continued on page 40

ASPA’s Summer Convention set for July 14-16

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An expanding variety of new and improved turfgrass sod production equipment will be displayed and demonstrated here at the American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) Summer Convention, July 14-16.

Hosted at the Thomas Bros. Grass Co. Nashville farm, the convention will feature two full days on the farm. The static displays, seed test plots and equipment areas will be opened Thursday and Friday, with bus transportation scheduled to meet the needs of members.

In addition to the business of farm operations, other highlights will include an educational session on Wednesday focusing on the issuance of credit; the annual business meeting featuring reports from the leadership; the election of new officers and trustees; and lodgings at the famed Opryland Hotel.

For immediate registration information, contact the ASPA office at 706-705-9878.

Research grants totalling nearly $20,000 have been awarded to four university research bodies by the ASPA. The projects were selected by the Research Committee from

Continued on page 40
Envirotech creates Golf Division

ENID, Okla. — Envirotech Services Inc., a comprehensive environmental and civil engineering firm based here, has created a Golf Division devoted exclusively to providing technical resources to the golf course industry.

Under the direction of Dr. Blaine T. Reely, the firm’s team of environmental planners, civil and environmental engineers, geologists, hydrologists and aquatic/wildlife habitat specialists aims at providing the golf course industry with solutions to environmental problems at any level.

According to Reely, specific areas of the firm’s expertise include the acquisition of adequate water supply sources for irrigation and domestic uses; protection of surface and ground water quality; protection and/or mitigation of wildlife habitat including wetlands and riparian areas; identification and protection of historically and architecturally significant areas.

Southern Calif. Turfgrass EXPO Oct. 6 and 7

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The 33rd annual Southern California Turfgrass EXPO will be held Oct. 6 and 7, 1993 here at the Orange County Fair Grounds and will feature more than 200 green industry exhibitors.

The Turfgrass EXPO, which attracts more than 4,000 attendees, is one of the oldest continuing trade shows in the United States devoted to the exhibition of equipment, materials and services for installing and maintaining turfgrass and landscape.

The EXPO is part of the $12 billion Green Industry in California — one of the state’s largest industries. More than 18,000 environmental beautification businesses comprise the Green Industry. The EXPO is an educational exhibit sponsored by the Southern California Turfgrass Council. EXPO hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 6 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 7.

Shampeny

Continued from page 37

available, we’ll build more stuff ourselves — we have the land to expand our manufacturing plant.

“But if you’re not big like the Big Boys and you want to grow, this is how you do it.”

Shampeny brings a great deal of practical experience to his position at Bunton. In addition to his extensive working knowledge of Toro, he spent seven years as head superintendent at Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont.

He hopes this background helps his new company make profitable strides in the golf course industry’s highly competitive iron-side.

“It’s seed, you walk across that line and change that color. I’ll tell ya: It makes you more aggressive. When you see that red and orange, it’s tough to compete. They’ve been around so long.

“But as I tell the boys back in Minneapolis: I just want a little bit of your business, just a little bit.”