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 roughstalk 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 fescue 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 said.

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Leaving "Big Red" for "Smaller Red"

BY HAL PHILLIPS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Sometimes security and economies of scale don’t measure up to opportunity and challenge.

Gary Shampeny, the new vice president of sales & marketing for Bunton, spent eight years at Toro before moving to Louisville early this year. Not everyone would forsake the imposing industry position of Big Red to scramble up the ladder with a smaller company. But Shampeny clearly relishes the chase.

“I tell the boys back in Minneapolis: If I were still up there, I’d have it made,” Shampeny said with a laugh. “I have a lot of respect for Toro. It’s a great organization. But I wanted to be involved with every aspect of an organization. Involved in every way.

“Let’s face it: There are five players in this business, and we’re number five. So we have to approach things a little differently. But it’s a challenge I enjoy.”

Bunton has been around for a long time, specializing in smaller reel products. But the broad-based successes of

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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 Seed 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 768-705-9888.

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Nine earn promotions at Scotts

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company Professional Business Group (PBG) recently announced the promotions of nine technical representatives.

Among those promoted to executive technical representatives were Jim Diley, Columbus, Ohio; Wayne Hornan, McFarland, Wis.; and Mark Jones, Mead, Wash. Diley joined PBG in 1969, and Hornan and Jones both joined in 1986.

Those promoted to Senior Technical Representatives were Fred R. Anderson, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Jim Boesch, Maitland, Fla.; Dave Louisit, Crown Point, Ind.; Miko Peterson, Roanoke, Va.; and Rick Syer, Kent, Wash.

Anderson, Boesch, Louisit and Peterson have been with PBG since 1985. Syer was named Technical Representative in 1990.

Jeff Cain of Powell, Ohio, was named manager of The Scotts Company's new Professional Service Centers in the Washington, D.C., area.

EcoScience Corp. rounds out board

WORCESTER, Mass. — EcoScience Corp. has announced the addition of the Honorable Claudine Schneider and Heinz K. Wehner to its board of directors. These appointments increase the size of EcoScience's board to nine. In addition, Larry M. Nouvel was appointed to fill an existing opening on the board.

Schneider, a former U.S. Congressman from Rhode Island, is currently Director of the Artemis Project, an initiative designed to assess the economic and scientific value of biodiversity in the U.S. Wehner is a former Executive VP of Miles Inc. Nouvel is Executive Vice President of Speer Products, Incorporated.

EcoScience is engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of natural pest control products.


2 Plus 2. The last word in broadleaf weed control.

TOCA awards two turf-related scholarships

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Two $1,000 scholarship awards were recently announced by the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) at the group's annual meeting in Overland Park. The recipients are Scott Hoffman, Colorado State University, and Jay Warnick, Utah State University. Both are enrolled in majors with interests in green industry communications.

This is the second year that TOCA, an association of editors, writers, public relations practitioners and others involved in green industry communications, has awarded scholarships. Funding for the program was made possible through donations by GIE Publishing, Advanstar Communications, Adams Publishing Corp., and Johnson Hill Press.

TOCA officers for coming year include Smith, president; Jose Milan, Ciba Turf And Ornamental Products, vice president; Bruce Shank, Adams Publishing Corp.; secretary/treasurer; Julie DeYoung, Fleishman-Hillard, and Lisa Osborne, Greenhouse Product News, directors; and Bob Tracinski, past president.

For more information about TOCA, contact Don Gardner, executive director, at 612-832-5000.

ASPA research

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among 11 projects submitted by 11 researchers at nine universities, requesting a total of $60,525 for the 1992-93 fiscal year. Projects receiving this support include:

• "Water Use of Turfgrasses, Ground Covers and Shrubs in Conventional and Xeriscape Conditions," Drs. G.L. Horst and D. Steinegger, University of Nebraska.
• "Soil Depletion from Turf Nurseries," Dr. L.C. Miller, Clemson University.
• "Evaluation of Genetically Engineered Daisies for Resistance to Summer Patch Caused by Magnaporthe Poae," Dr. H.T. Wilkinson, University of Illinois.

LANDCADD relocates

LANDCADD International, the design software company, has moved to new offices. Its current address is as follows: LANDCADD International, 7388 South Revere Pky., Building 900, Suite 901 and 902, Englewood, Colo., 80112-3942. The firm can be reached by phone at 303-799-3600; or fax at 303-799-5690.