GALLO TO REP OLSON IN NORTHEAST

SANTEE, Calif. — Olson Irrigation has appointed Phil Gallo to represent its landscape and agricultural products in New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. The Olson line had previously not been available in the Northeast. Gallo can be reached at 203-350-5111.

BROOKS TO HANDLE SCOTS FIELD SALES

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Ken Brook has been promoted to field sales manager for the Consumer Business Group (CBG) of The Scotts Company. Brook, who has been with Scotts for 23 years in a variety of positions, had been field manager for the Southeast region. In his new role, he will assume responsibility for the CBG field sales organization and sales administration functions. He will move from Atlanta to central Ohio.

MILLWARD JOINS HUNTER IN EAST

CARY, N.C. — Hunter Industries has appointed Bill Millward the new district manager for the Southeast region. In his new role, he will assume responsibility for the manufacture of compost activators and natural fertilizers. Millward will be based at the Hunter East Coast manufacturing facility here and can be reached at 919-467-7100.

STONEMAN TO PROMOTE ENVIROMATE

Chris Hansen Biosystems has named Bill Stoneman to promote its natural microorganisms and enzymes for environmental applications. Stoneman now manages and directs the Enviromate product line, which includes Enviromate Compost Inoculant and Organic Fertilizer Inoculant — concentrated sources of naturally occurring microorganisms for the manufacture of compost activators and natural organic fertilizers.

SMITH JOINS JAKE IN N’WEST

RACINE, Wis. — Jordy Smith has been named regional sales manager for the Jacobsen Division of Textron in the northwestern portion of the U.S. and western Canada. A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Smith has previously held sales positions with Boyd/Martin Co. in Salt Lake City. He lives in Bountiful, Utah.

GOLFCourseNEWS

PROPOSED PESTICIDE REFORMS NOT EXPECTED TO IMPACT APPLICATION

BY BARNABY WICKHAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The government has unveiled sweeping proposed legislation to reform the country’s pesticide laws, though changes are not expected to directly affect the golf course industry.

“Nothing is in the new law...that addresses any change in [pesticide] application techniques, equipment or worker protection,” said Mike Scott, golf liaison for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “However, there will be a general implication to any users of pesticides. The [Clinton] administration’s proposed bill is very significantly asking for integrated pest management (IPM) techniques which would apply to...golf course superintendents.”

The insistence on IPM programs — something not found in the current law, but something superintendents have been employing for years — was brought about by the administration’s directive to reduce use of pesticides, especially those with high levels of chemical toxicity. In addition to reducing the number of chemicals on the market, the program also seeks to promote biological products, billed as “safer” pesticides.

“One of the ways we hope to encourage this is to fast track the registration of certain pesticides raises the general issue of product approval for all pesticides.”

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Mechanized creature emerges from depths ... with golf balls!

BY STEVE BENNETT

White gold. That’s what Bill Serafin of Canton, Mich.’s Great Lakes Golf Ball Co. calls the booty he raises from golf course water holes.

But unlike sunken-treasure divers who may spend a lifetime searching for a single payoff, Serafin and his crew have some 20,000 lost golf balls a week from water hazards for resale to courses and driving ranges.

Also unlike the sunken treasure chests that dreams are made of, Serafin knows he can go back to a pond or lake and retrieve new white gold in a few years — an endless, renewable supply of sought-after commodity.

A former machinist at a Michigan auto plant, the 52-year-old Serafin fishes golf balls out of ponds for many years using Scuba tanks or hip boots. Frustrated with the hazards and limited results, Serafin used his machinist skills to copy the design of a 500-pound slotted roller-retriever that is dragged with two winches across the bottoms of ponds.

Using two golf cars with a motorized pulley system, the roller enters the water empty on one side of the pond, and emerges from the muck and mud on the otherside with up to 900 balls caught in its slotted fins. The cars move the roller up and down the pond until it has covered each area twice. When the roller is full, crowbar-like pickers are used to pull the trapped balls from between the roller’s fins.

“We did a golf course in the fall of 1992 that Scuba divers had been retrieving balls from for about 10 years,” Serafin said. “The course management said divers just pulled 4,000 balls out a couple of weeks earlier. We went in and with our roller collected 18,000.”

Serafin sells back to the course balls suitable for resale in pro shops — Continued on page 49

PVP ACT READY BY MID-SUMMER?

BY MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers and the seed industry expect a new Plant Variety Protection Act to be ready for final approval this summer.

“We’re quite hopeful the full House will move within next month to six weeks [mid- to late-July], and then we’ll work out differences between the House and Senate bills and have a final bill for approval perhaps by early August,” Tim Galvin said from Sen. Bob Kerry’s office.

Kerry, D-Neb., last fall asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Variety Protection office to draft new PVP legislation to bring the United States into conformity with a new international Union for the Protection of Varieties (UPOV) treaty. Once a new law passes, the Senate can take the final step of ratifying the treaty — a 1991 rewrite of the original 1978 agreement.

Twenty-one countries negotiated UPOV regulations. That would mean grass seeds could be sold in bags without stating variety, except within the 10 states that prohibit VNS labeling.

The full Senate approved the PVP legislation on May 25. The House was expected Continued on page 47

GCSAA RENEWS COMMITMENT TO ASIAN TRADE SHOW

BY HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Citing its mission to further the profession and its confirmed belief the venture won’t cost domestic members a dime, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has decided to continue its relationship with Golf Asia.

The superintendents association will again sell booth space to “industry” exhibitors, while Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. will cater to the “commercial” or playing-side exhibitors. GCSAA will also run the education conference that takes place during the trade show, while Connex will host the more development-oriented Asia-Pacific Golf Conference prior to the show. International Management Group (IMG), the sports marketing giant, is the third member of Golf Asia’s triumvirate.

A voluntary portion of the GCSAA domestic membership has voiced its displeasure with the association’s overseas ventures. But at their spring Continued on page 48
California EPA to consolidate its many environmental laws

BY BARNABY WICKHAM

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The state Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has undertaken plans to consolidate California’s myriad environmental laws into a single, unified statute.

This statute would organize laws along functional lines that cut across environmental concerns (such as permitting and enforcement), in place of the current divisions along lines of air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste, pesticides and scientific risk assessment.

Although the proposed consolidation of legislation would alter regulation use of reclaimed water, fertilizers and pesticides, Deputy Secretary of the California EPA Mike Kahoe said he was not aware of any changes that would adversely affect golf courses. According to Kahoe, the purpose of the change is intended to cut out duplication and overlap.

A more consistent set of requirements would allow more coordination among regulating agencies, Kahoe said. "This work is designed to be more focused on what are the true environmental risks," he said. Golf course architect Ted Robinson, a veteran of design in the West, said consolidation of environmental laws to a singular source could be beneficial to the California golf industry.

"The major problem [in golf course development] is that you don’t know what the rules are. To find out, you must test the waters, which can be an expensive process," he said.

A task force consisting of legal experts and environmental representatives is charged with developing a proposal by year’s end. Kahoe said this proposal should be introduced to the Legislature in January 1995.

Pesticide reforms

Continued from page 45

Though it doesn’t target any particular pesticide, "There is also a good deal of discussion that addresses the speed by which [pesticide] registration and reregistration is done," Scott said. Scott also expressed the need to speed up the "revisions and time-consuming" process for cancellation of pesticides introduced before the passage of the stricter Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 1987. Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington, Calif., does not see anything to be concerned about with the proposed legislation. He said he sees no changes in the administration’s pesticide agenda to target "bad actors" for market removal and to promote biological products. Davies emphasized the government has not targeted certain pesticides for elimination. "My opinion is, they are just trying to reduce overlap from a cost standpoint," he said.

If hearings are held this summer, which seems possible to Scott, a new pesticide bill may be out as early as October. If there are no hearings this summer, passage of the bill could carry into January 1995, if it passes at all.

The EPA has also proposed the nation’s first-ever emission standards to protect public health by reducing exhaust pollution from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment. According to the EPA’s Mike Scott, buyers will experience a cost increase across the board of one to three percent. "Industry members say it will probably be closer to one percent or less," he said.

The proposed legislation comprises two phases. Phase I, which would take effect in 1996, would require a monotherm, things, exhaust emission standards to which manufacturers would comply by improving the air and fuel mixture for more complete fuel combustion. In Phase II, which is incomplete at this point, the EPA will re-evaluate the appropriate level of standards, said Scott.

Barring any surprises, the law will be passed in no more than six months, he added.

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