Off the market

Last mercury-based pesticide, Calo-Clor, obsolete this month

By Hal Phillips

Whether or not you agree that mercury-based pesticides pose tangible threats to the environment and their applicators, the last of this chemical breed will disappear from the marketplace this month.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has canceled the registration of the mercury-based pesticides Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran, as voluntarily requested by Grace-Sierra Crop Protection Co. (The request was made last year and Grace-Sierra has since been purchased by The Scott Company.)

Reactions in the golf course industry vary widely, as some applaud the move and some decry it. Either way, superintendents in Northern climes are searching for new ways to treat pink and grey snow mold.

“A lot of guys use [Calo-Clor], and I imagine a lot of guys are stockpiling right now,” said Kevin Ross, superintendent of the State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, N.C. “They’re not going to get any more of these.”

New cultivars show great promise

By Mark Leslie

The hot button in today’s world of bentgrass breeding is heat-resistance, and a half-dozen superior new cultivars entering the marketplace will reportedly anticipate some of their ancestors.

While turfgrass breeders and superintendents await the final results, this month, of the last five-year national bentgrass test, they know one thing: The new leading bentgrasses are finer, darker and denser than the old standard bearers.

Expecting the newest cultivars, planted in test plots last fall, to be even better, Dr. Mill Engelke of Texas A&M said: “We’ve made one first good step. We’re getting a biologically stronger plant. The new generation of bentgrasses is going to give much better uniformity and less tendency to segregate.

“We’re concentrating more now on taking the desirable genes for disease, heat- and insect-resistance and putting them into single [seed] populations.”

The Penncross-PennLinks-Penneagle line out of Penn State has dominated the bentgrass market for three decades. But “suddenly, just within the last year more new bentgrasses have been released than in the last 35 years,” said Engelke.

Seven-course project planned for Virginia’s I-64 corridor

By Peter Blais

Williamsburg and Richmond, Va. — The state’s largest landowner and one of the major operators of golf courses in Myrtle Beach, S.C., have joined forces to develop as many as seven golf courses along Interstate 64 between Williamsburg and Richmond.

Chesapeake Corp. of Richmond and The Legends Group of Myrtle Beach tentatively plan four courses, a residential subdivision and possibly a par-72 horse racetrack on 10,000 acres in New Kent County. Construction of the first course is scheduled to begin in early summer and could be ready for play by September 1995, according to Peter Johns, special projects manager for Chesapeake subsidiary Delmarva Properties.

Closer to Williamsburg, the 7,200-acre Stonehouse Pond is scheduled to open in 1996.
Inaugural Scotts Tradition of Excellence award to GCSAA

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was presented the 1994 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award at the Tradition golf tournament here in early April. Stephen F. Mona, executive director and CEO of GCSAA, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Scotts established The Tradition of Excellence Award to recognize the outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents in advancing the science of course maintenance and in making golf the best it can be.

"When considering who the recipient of the first Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award should be, the choice was obvious," said Scotts Company’s President and COO Ted Host.

"The GCSAA has sought through its membership to sustain the highest standards for performance, professionalism and innovation in the world of golf course management.

"Through this award, we are recognizing the contributions of all golf course superintendents who have made the golf industry in this country the finest in the world, and we salute them for bringing out the excellence in all of us who serve it," Host concluded.

Last mercury-based pesticide pulled

Continued from page 1

The problem with systemic fungicides like Banner—not to mention Bayleton, Rubigan and Turmeric SP— is overuse. Both Ross and Jackson agreed that excessive spring dollar spot application might build a tolerance to the fungicide, precluding its use when you really need it — in the summer.

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