Scotts & Pursell settle their differences

By Hal Phillips

Pursell Industries of Sylacauga, Ala., and O.M. Scotts & Sons Co. of Marysville, Ohio, have reached an out-of-court settlement following a pair of lawsuits pertaining to an advertising campaign waged by Pursell in 1993.

The ads, which compared Pursell’s Polyon fertilizer technology with Scotts’ Poly-S technology, appeared in several trade magazines during a four-month period in 1993. Scotts brought suit in September of that year, claiming the ads were misleading. Shortly thereafter, Pursell countersued on similar grounds.

Both suits were settled on Sept. 28 of this year. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio dismissed them Sept. 30. As part of the settlement, Pursell and Scotts agreed not to publish — for a period of four years — any advertisements comparing any Scotts coated fertilizer, including Poly-S, with any Pursell coated fertilizer product, including Polyon, unless they have first run a series of agreed-upon tests.

“It’s a joint settlement agreement,” said Chris Schmenk, associate general counsel for Scotts. “I’m not at liberty to discuss any more about the settlement. We had some confidential provisions.

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International PVP law takes effect in spring 1995

By Mark Leslie

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new Plant Variety Protection law, which had split many in the American seed industry, was signed by President Clinton on Oct. 6, and will take effect next April. The legislation will make the United States the first nation to come into compliance with the new International Union for the Protection of Varieties (UPOV) treaty.

Four other countries must join the United States in order for the UPOV treaty to take effect. UPOV was first passed by 21 countries in 1978 and rewritten in 1991. “Some are very close but no one has officially signed on yet,” said Leslie Cahill, American Seed Trade Association vice president of governmental affairs.

Public Law 103-349 passed the Senate May 25, passed the House with minor modifications on Aug. 12, and went back to the Senate for final approval before Clinton’s signature.

UPOV’s purpose is to ensure quality control; truth in advertising; and enforcement, ensuring the seed in a bag is exactly what its label states.

“Overall, this was very good for not only the seed industry but, most importantly, the American seed industry,” said Leslie Cahill, American Seed Trade Association vice president of governmental affairs.

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J Jacobsen names Florida distributor, realigns sales & marketing

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Kilpatrick Turf Equipment has been named the Jacobsen dealer in South Florida. Kilpatrick Turf Equipment will be responsible for Lee, Glades, Hendry, Collier, and Charlotte counties along Florida’s West coast; and Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Monroe counties along the state’s East coast.

Kilpatrick can be reached at 1-800-432-0666.

RACINE, Wis. — Officials at Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. have announced a realignment of the company’s sales and marketing departments, now combined under the direction of Harold Pinto, vice president sales and marketing.

Ralph Nicotera, director of North American Sales, is now responsible for product sales to golf and non-golf markets through Jacobsen dealers and company-owned retail outlets.

Jacobsen has also announced personnel changes in the company’s service parts and whole goods distribution areas.

Steve Nelson has been named director

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Ciba sponsors certification lunch, international lounge at GCSAA

SAN FRANCISCO — As a tribute to the commitment made by certified golf course superintendents, Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products has joined forces with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) to host a certification luncheon during its 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show.

Ciba has also teamed with GCSAA to offer an international lounge, where professional interpreters will assist Japanese- and Spanish-speaking attendees with registration and orientation.

GCSAA’s annual conference and show is scheduled for Feb. 20-27, 1995, at the Moscone Center here.

The GCSAA and Ciba partnership will include an exclusive complimentary luncheon and program for certified golf course superintendents to be held Friday, Feb. 24, in the San Francisco Marriott. To become certified, a candidate must have five years’ experience as a golfcourse superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific education requirements of college credit or continuing education units. The candidate then must pass a rigorous six-hour examination.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,400 active GCSAA members currently hold “CGCS” status.

“GCSAA’s continuing education and certification programs produce the best professionals this industry has to offer,” said Bill Liles, director of turf and ornamental products for Ciba. The luncheon is scheduled for 12:15-1 p.m., with the program following from 1:15-1:45 p.m. The program portion of the certification event will be open to all GCSAA members and will include a business meeting. There will be discussion of new eligibility requirements for certification and recognition of newly certified superintendents.

Jacobsen hires

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to, Service Parts and Distribution, while Laura Kozenzki becomes manager of distribution.

Gene Majewski has been named parts planning manager and Diana Gory becomes service parts customer service supervisor. Officials at Jake have also named Wayne Whitehead as director of special accounts. Whitehead is responsible for the sale of Jacobsen products to special-account customers in the golf course industry.

Officials at Jacobsen have named Neil Woodfin as field service manager, Asia/Pacific Region. He is responsible for service and parts issues in the Asia/Pacific region including distributor service training and technical support. Woodfin will be based at the Jacobsen office in Singapore.

The company has also named Jon Clapper as manager of Plant Engineering and Maintenance here at Jacobsen’s Racine location. He is also responsible for the company’s environmental compliance.

New chairman at RISE: Jan Novak

NAPLES, Fla. — Jan Novak of Monsanto/The Solaris Group has succeeded Rhone-Poulenc’s Scott Johnson as chairman of the specialty chemical trade association, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

Novak accepted the gavel during The RISE Annual Meeting held here in September. Bob Yarborough of Lesco, Inc. is the organization’s new vice president, while Tommy Reeves of Oldham Chemical is the new treasurer.

Also announced at the Annual Meeting were additions to the RISE Governing Board: Gene Johanningsmeier of Turfgrass, Inc., Bill Liles of Ciba, and Dick Stahl of The Scotts Co. These new members replace retiring board members Duane Hagert of Wilbur-Ellis, Marvin Moore of Riverdale Chemical and Tom Perkins of American Cyanamid.

Completing the Governing Board for 1995 are Peter Machin of The Andersons (ex-officio), Ron Fister of Sandoz Agro, Dick Holzschu of DowElanco, Denny Salettel of Tyler Enterprises and Jim Widman of AgrEvo.