JACOBI TO REP ISK IN SOUTHEAST

MENTOR, Ohio — Jim Jacobi has joined ISK Biosciences Corp., the manufacturer of agricultural and specialty chemical products, as Southeast Turf & Ornamental specialist. Jacobi is a recent graduate of Auburn University. He will be responsible for the commercial manufacturer of agricultural and specialty turf and ornamental products and experimental compounds in the Southeast. He reports to Dr. M. Howard Thomas, North America commercial development manager.

CYNAMID SENDS SUPER TO SCOTLAND

WAYNE, N.J. — Tony Gustaitis, CGCS at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, Pa., will visit the birthplace of golf this summer courtesy of American Cyanamid Co., maker of Pendimethalin. Gustaitis won the expense-paid trip for two to Scotland under the leadership of FTA's Fibermesh Division and Geosynthetic Fibers in the world.

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga. — Synthetic turf will be installed at the FTA Fibermesh Division at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, Pa., this spring.

KOERNER TO LEAD SI'S FIBERMESH

Sylacauga, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc., the second-largest manufacturer of technical polypropylene fabrics and fibers in the world, announces the formation of the Construction/Civil Engineering Products Group under the leadership of C. Ted Koerner. This new group will be composed of SI's Fibermesh Division and Geosynthetic Products Division (formerly Construction Products Division).

HARGROVE JOINS PURSELL

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc., has announced the employment of Garry Hargrove, PhD. Hargrove, former director of product development at Grace-Sierra in Milpitas, Calif., will assist in fulfilling Pursell's goal to lead the market worldwide in controlled-release fertilizer and related technologies development.

BRIEFS

By PETER BLAIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency plans to accelerate or eliminate its review of many changes to pesticide labeling and formulas, according to EPA spokesman John Kasper.

"If EPA can establish procedures and guidelines that everyone understands so that products aren't submitted that don't qualify for the quicker procedures, then it could really speed up the process. That would be great," Ciba Product Manager Jose Milan said.

The proposed policy cuts EPA's review process in half, from 90 days to 45 days, for certain minor pesticide registration amendments. At the same time, the rule expands the range of pesticide registration amendments that can be accomplished by simply notifying the agency without approval.

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Accu-Weather, Inc. has announced the availability of its proprietary StormVue Nearish Doppler-radar product, which is designed to predict where thunderstorms will go and indicate future storm locations (boxes along the storm track show future storm positions at 15-minute intervals). StormVue can be overlaid onto any of the 20 color graphic Nearish Doppler radar products from any of the 88 Nearish sites available from Accu-Weather. For more information, call Accu-Weather at 814-237-0399. For more new products, see page 42.

Study should lead to Bermudagrass certification in Fla.

By PETER BLAIS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Developing a certification program for vegetative Bermudagrass to ensure that Florida golf courses receive only top-quality turf from suppliers is the annual goal of a two-year, $86,000 study funded by two of the state's major golf industry associations.

The study, which begins this summer at University of Florida laboratories in Gainesville and Fort Lauderdale, will attempt to distinguish the desired strains of Tifway and Tifdwarf (the two most common grasses found on Florida courses) in terms of chromosome count, morphological (physical) attributes and DNA analysis.

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and Florida Turfgrass Superintendents from 1992 to 1994 labeled its certification in Fla.

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Civil penalties amounting to $110,000 have been imposed against two Oregon grass seed dealers following allegations of product mislabeling, according to reports in the Portland-based Oregonian newspaper.

E.F. Burlingame & Sons of Forest Grove paid a $100,000 penalty, and Pickseed West Inc. of Talent paid a $10,000 penalty stemming from an investigation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Both firms have signed court documents stating they will not violate unlawful trade practices laws in the future. Neither company admitted wrongdoing.

As part of the settlement, E.F. Burlingame & Sons had its license to sell seeds suspended for 30 days starting May 20.

State inspectors alleged the Burlington firm on several occasions from 1992 to 1994 labeled its own varieties of tall fescue seeds as Kentucky 31, a nonproprietary seed which has greater popularity in some markets.

EPA looking to streamline label review process

By PETER BLAIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is looking to accelerate or eliminate its review of many changes to pesticide labeling and formulas, according to EPA spokesman John Kasper.

"The procedures could affect as many as 750 of the 5,000 pesticide registration amendments made each year," Kasper said. Most of the amendments concern labeling (such as changing to an alternative brand name) or altering product composition (such as the addition of dyes and fragrances).

"If EPA can establish procedures and guidelines that everyone understands so that products aren't submitted that don't qualify for the quicker procedures, then it could really speed up the process. That would be great," Ciba Product Manager Jose Milan said.

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Stuart David Barnes of Greg Norman Turf Co. represents the FTA.

"Six months into the program, we'll call the major growers together and give them an idea of what direction the research seems to be taking. We want to make sure they have time to react to the program rather than just dumping the results in their laps two years from now. "It's frustrating for them to grow a crop and not get what they or the superintendents expected. The extra scrutiny will probably drive Bermudagrass prices somewhat. But it's in their[suppliers'] and our[superintendents'] best interests to lead the market worldwide in controlled-release fertilizer and related technologies development."

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The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and Florida Turfgrass Superintendents Association (FTA) are splitting the cost of the project. The two associations will share the findings with the 10 or so major Bermudagrass suppliers, who will hope to sell them an idea of what direction the research seems to be taking. We want to make sure they have time to react to the program rather than just dumping the results in their laps two years from now.

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