Verti-Drain suits multiply

By HAL PHILLIPS

Baton Rouge, La. — A cease and desist order, followed by ongoing product confusion in the field, has led to a pair of lawsuits; both concerning anti-compaction products; both filed here in federal court.

Redexim, the Dutch company which developed the Verti-Drain line of products, and distributors of Verti-Drain deep-tine soil aeration machines are pursuing litigation in the United States against a former distributor, Southern Green, Inc., marketers of the Soil Releiver aerator, for infringement of Redexim’s patent and trademark rights.

In its lawsuit, Redexim alleges that Southern Green, Inc., of Baton Rouge, La., a former distributor of Verti-Drain equipment, has infringed Redexim’s United States patent and the Verti-Drain trademark, misappropriated trade secrets, and engaged in unfair competition.

“It’s actually a countersuit,” explained K.V. Estes, co-owner of Southern Green. “We sued them last November [1994] and we received their countersuit [in August]. We sued last year because they were telling everyone in the industry that we had infringed on their patents and they

Harper Bros. storm Florida sand market

By HAL PHILLIPS

Palmdale, Fla. — A 555-acre silica sand mine and state-of-the-art processing facility here, just west of Lake Okeechobee, now offers sand that meets U.S. Golf Association recommended specifications to golf course designers, developers and operators throughout South Florida.

The mine is owned and operated by Fort Myers-based Harper Bros. Inc., one of the region’s largest producers of raw materials for road building and site development. The technologically advanced processing facility will monitor the sand’s gradation and colorometric standards on a daily basis and use a washing & scrubbing operation designed to ensure production of a superior quality sand with no iron, clay or organic matter impurities, according to Ron Inge, Harper Bros. vice president.

“The Palmdale Sand Mine establishes Harper Bros. as a major player in the production of top quality sand for the construction and maintenance of golf courses throughout South Florida,” said Inge. “The Palmdale site was selected because of the quality of the sand deposit.” For more information on Harper Bros., call 414-481-2550.

New era for Golf Asia

By HAL PHILLIPS

Singapore — With seven months remaining before the ribbon is cut here at the World Trade Centre, Golf Asia ’96 has booked more than 60 percent of its available booth space, according to the show’s new marketing manager, Clare Milford. And though it drew a record 21,000 visitors from a reported 31 countries in 1995 — and 82 percent of last year’s 212 exhibitors reported they achieved their pre-show objectives — Golf Asia faces many new challenges in 1996.

The number of show organizers has been trimmed from three to two, leaving Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. and International Management Group (IMG) in charge of both sales, show operations and marketing. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), which had been a co-organizer for Golf Asia ’94 & ’95, has relinquished its U.S. booth sales role. The GCSAA will continue to conduct the Golf Asia education conference, however.

While Connex is responsible for the bulk of Asia-Pacific sales, the Hong Kong & China Golf Exhibition and Conference is scheduled to take place here at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Marking four decades of Penncross

By HAL PHILLIPS

The challengers are legion, some of them even originate in-house. But the long-standing king of bentgrass stolons — Penncross, which turns 40 years old this year — remains the putting turf of choice in transition and Northern climes.

“I would say, before they get contaminated with Poa annua, 85 percent of bentgrass greens in America are Penncross,” said Bill Rose, president of Tee-2-Green, the marketing group with exclusive rights to Dr. Bert Musser’s famous creeping. “Everybody’s trying to do better, but I can’t see anything lasting 10 years, much less 40 years. There isn’t anything like it; never has been and probably never will be again.”

Rose explained that today’s Penncross seed — the first generation, straight from the parent stolons — is the same seed produced by Penn State’s Prof. Musser in 1955. This direct line to Musser’s innovation helps explain the product’s unparalleled longevity, he said.

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Penncrest turns 40
Continued from page 39
"Time and time again we go through these trials and others jockey for three years, then you see Penncrest is still the best," said Rose. "The bents are getting better, and Penncrest wasn't nearly as dominant in 10 years. But there will be Penncrest sold in 10 years, and people will be pleased with it." The careers of Penncrest and Rose are nearly at an end. Penncrest was re-launched in 1955, and Rose got out of the military service a year later. After becoming aware of the new creeping bent at an early age, and that's certainly what happened back then. We had an all-night session to discuss the problems. Out of that, Penn State decided to release Penn-cross to us exclusively and we committed to growing only certified seed." Rose helped form the Penncross Growers Association in 1971, included most of the 14 growers that remain members today. Turf Seed, Inc. markets the product.

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