Belgian firm buys fertilizer foothold in U.S.

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Hickson Kerley, the manufacturer and marketer of specialty liquid fertilizer products such as N-Sure, Formolene-Plus, KTS and Trisert — all aimed at the golf course and lawn care markets — has been acquired by the Tessenderlo Group of Brussels, Belgium. The company's name has been changed to Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc.

Tessenderlo Kerley, based here, will become part of the Chloralkali and Inorganic Division of Tessenderlo Chemie, a leading producer of sulfate of potash and feed phosphates in Europe. The company also produces chlorine caustic soda, caustic potash and derivatives for industrial purposes.

Tessenderlo Kerley, a manufacturer and marketer of innovative liquid plant nutritional products and technologies for the agricultural and specialty markets, will continue to be based here in Phoenix. The company employs 250 people and has sales of $80 million. The acquisition of Hickson Kerley from Hickson International represents Tessenderlo's first entry into the green industry market in the United States.

Jordan Burns, formerly the general manager of Jupiter Chemical Co., has been named chief operating officer of the company. Livio Lederer, president of Tessenderlo USA, represents the company's board of directors.

NFAI umbrella covers Sustane

CANNON FALLS, Minn. — Natural Fertilizer of America, Inc. (NFAI) has acquired the business operations of Sustane Corp. and Bio Grounds Keeper, according to NFAI President Craig Holden.

NFAI produces organic-based fertilizers and related products for the commercial turf, horticulture and specialty agriculture industries. The new structure for Sustane Corp. was recently formed and capitalized by Holden and a group of six Twin City-area businessmen who have committed up to $5 million to finance the growth of the business.

Holden said key employees will remain with Sustane, including the company's experienced technical staff. "Our manufacturing is operating at nearly double its previous output capacity to meet our customers' product requirements," Holden said. "Our management focus is to provide well researched, quality products, excellent customer service, and support."
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Golf Course Superintendent
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