Asian market remains strong

In terms of genetic advances the future is definitely now

Remember all those old jokes about what you get when you cross a banana with a grapefruit or a giraffe with a plopfish? Well, we're there, at that very point in man's history when he can play creator (lower case). My favorite for instance is that geneticists actually have inserted firefly genes into tobacco to give us that suave day-glow effect.

This is no Dr. Frankenstein. If we were actually discussing something other than turfgrass, this could get scary. Thankfully, I think our friends at the turfgrass labs won't be causing the trouble for mankind that may possibly come out of the hospital and animal laboratories of the world. There we deal with Dr. Frankensteins here, mehthinks; and, therefore, the golf industry can rest easy. A whole new turf world has opened up—propelled into the future by extraordinary scientific advancements borrowed from other fields.

You want hire-ridicule-resistant bentgrass? It exists, is growing in the fields, and will be on the market before you know it. You want drought-tolerant bentgrass? Salt-tolerant? You can hold your breath for the wait—we'll get them that soon. With funding in hand, it will take three to five years maxium, says Dr. Marian Sticklelen of Michigan State University (see story page 15). And that is but a mere millisecond in the normal timeframe of turfgrass development.

How important is this new word of genetic research in what Dr. Sticklelen calls the Green Revolution? She tells this story of another revolution from the 1830s: The mayor of New York writes to President Jackson, saying, "Dear Mr. President: There is a new revolution called the railroad industry. It has enormous vehicles called trains that move at the breakneck speed of 15 miles an hour. Not only do they make fire in farms, but they frighten cattle and women and children." The mayor asks the president to stop the revolution.

"Mr. Jackson didn't say anything," says Dr. Sticklelen, "but..."

Letters

IN DEFENSE OF ALGAE FANS

To the editor:

I am confident that superintendents will continue to feel comfortable in sharing ideas through your "On the Green" column. Freebies comparing main tenance practices in the interest of propelling our profession forward and simply helping each other out is one of the many facets of our profession that make it unique. I have read many articles, including some in your publication, that have been very helpful. Some, of course, can not be used on every golf course, or in every situation.

Mr. Ray Kimmel of Parkwood Research, I hope, hit upon the importance of open discussion of new ideas, knowing they may not work in every application. Mr. Kimmel, therefore, was out of line to comment about Algae Fans. I cannot imagine the use of a fan to help combat algal problems (GCN, April, page 10). In giving Mr. Kimmel the benefit of the doubt, I agree that we may be fewer subsets knows the fan works in many instances—and what an opportunity for some free advertising!

Jay Pearcy
Quail Ridge Golf Course
Memphis, Tenn.

More Letters, page 14

example of how private industry, state universities and the federal government can cooperate to address critical issues in a cost effective manner.

4. Much positive publicity has resulted from past USDA support of turfgrass research and the NTEP. This publicity is crucial to a positive image of USDA among a growing urban population.

If you are interested in saving this money for the future, please communicate with your senators and congressmen and tell them you support turfgrass research funding by USDA. Also, the following individuals within USDA need to hear from you:

Turfgrass Evaluation Program

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Karen Miller, Turfgrass and Range Management

Secretary Dan Glickman, USDA
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Room 204
14th & Independence Ave. S.W.
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Beltsville, MD 20705

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact NTEP by phone (301-504-5125), fax (301-504-5167) or via the Internet (kmorris@ars.usda.gov).

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Subscription Information
Golf Course News
P.O. Box 3047
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-788-7711

United Publications, Inc.
Provider of specialized business and consumer magazines.

Charles E. von Brecht
President
G.J. Taliaferro, Jr.
GRASSCRAFT PRESIDENT TAKES ISSUE WITH COLUMN

To the editor:
Your editorial in the February edition of GOLF COURSE NEWS was a shock to those of us who have been working for years to strengthen the superintendent's profession. You could not be further from the truth. A new organization can create a stronger GCSSA without diluting the power of affiliated chapters.

Most requirements are the same; all are before, we will just be enforcing them across the board. These requirements are designed to make sure that all our chapters are strong, stable and able to provide good, meaningful programs for their members.

We have had true and honest debate about all the issues related to the affiliation agreement, and not just limited to the dual-membership requirement. You did not attend the Chapter Relations Committee Meetings, nor any of the Chapter Relations Committee meetings, nor probably any of the many chapter meetings that I have attended to discuss these issues in detail. There has been a great deal of lively debate on this issue over the past two years. Finally, the time came to put it to a vote and decide a direction, rather than hem-hawing cleartly into the

21st century: The Board of Directors was overwhelmed with the overwhelming support for this change at the Feb. 10 election. Your accusation of heavy-handedness and dictators taking over the golf course is not true. The media are much more in distinguishing between The National Enquirer and Golf Course News when discussing the same issue. We are in the fight, but not at GCSSA's expense. The media are typically quite heavy-handed in degrading the entire profession. In my estimation, the media is more interested in generating dollars and member dues, the media are simply a part of the independent superintendent's association, and we welcome the viewpoint.

We need all kinds of feedback, including criticism, to keep us aware of where we are, and where we want to be.

Bruce R. Williams
President, GCSSA

Lawrence, Kan.

Editor — As for the weakening of affiliated chapters, clearly dual-membership will strengthen GCSSA membership while weakening those of state and regional organizations. We can agree there are superintendents — let's call them independents — who will not join GCSAA, but not to GCSSA. By mandating these individuals make a choice — join both groups or neither — two eventualities will take place: (1) those who agree to join both members, as a portion of the independents will surely deem it worthwhile to join national — as much for the benefit of the organization but not to GCSSA. By mandating these individuals make a choice — join both groups or neither — two eventualities will take place: (1) those who agree to join both members, as a portion of the independents will surely deem it worthwhile to join national and (2) Local associations will lose potential members, but not that many. In summary, dual-membership is not the way to go, but we have not been approached by GCSSA to discuss these issues in detail. There has been a great deal of lively debate on this issue over the past two years. Finally, the time came to put it to a vote and decide a direction, rather than hem-hawing cleartly into the

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