

## National Seal gets ISO, GAI OK

AURORA, Ill. — The Quality Control Laboratory at National Seal Co.'s Galesburg, Ill., facility successfully passed an audit by TUV Rheinland of North America and was awarded ISO 9003 certification by Deutscher Akkreditierungs Rat (DAR-Germany).

"Having a quality system conforming to ISO 9003 gives us a strong edge in the world marketplace where certification is almost a prerequisite for doing business, especially in the European Community," said Lance Reed, quality assurance manager for National Seal, a manufacturer and installer of polyethylene lining and piping systems for waste and liquid containment.

The ISO 9000 series of standards was created by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to simplify the international exchange of goods and services by developing a common set of quality requirements. ISO 9003 is the quality systems standard focusing on final inspection and testing of manufactured product.

NSC-Galesburg documented and demonstrated compliance to all sixteen elements in ISO 9003 including internal auditing, timely corrective action, the handling of customer complaints, and a comprehensive laboratory calibration program.

National Seal's equipment applications

include ponds, lagoons and reservoirs.

The company's Quality Control lab also passed an audit by the Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute - Laboratory Accreditation Program (GAI-LAP).

GAI-LAP provides credibility to laboratories showing compliance with equipment and documentation for specific standard test methods. GAI-LAP also verifies that an effective quality system exists at all accredited laboratories.

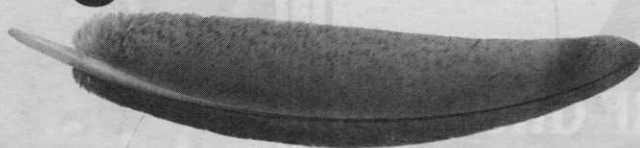
## Golf Ventures lands in Jupiter

LAKELAND, Fla. — Golf Ventures Inc. has opened its third regional service center. The new office, located in Jupiter, Fla., serves Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward and Dade Counties.

The new location services the golf course maintenance industry specifically and distributes Lykes Fertilizer, Helena Chemical, Lofts Seed, Ringer, PSA, Emerald Isle, Bio Turf Gro, Green Releaf and a number of other specialty products.

Staffing the Jupiter office will be representatives David Cheesman, Walt McMahon and Mike Bonetti. The office manager is Sue Sjosten. Sjosten has a number of years experience in the golf industry, including serving for four years as the administrative assistant in the Florida Regional office of the USGA Green Section.

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CIRCLE #138

## Toro vs. G&H

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According to Larry Buckley, Toro's attorney, "What we believe was stolen is the concept of the assembly; in turn, opening a great opportunity for a universal assembly based on the inside knowledge that Grizzle gained over his years at Toro."

At the end of November, 1996, Toro sought an injunction through the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to remove certain Bear sprinkler products from the market until the time of trial. The Court denied Toro's injunction.

During the first week in June, 1997, Judge Takasugi released the Court's conclusion, stating that Toro did not have sufficient admissible evidence to support its claims that Grizzle & Hunter stole trade secrets.

"We're sitting in a good position right now," said Pam Wagner, an attorney from Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, the law firm handling the case Grizzle & Hunter. "The main focus of this lawsuit wasn't so much about money as it was about Toro trying to put our client out of business. We already knew the judge found some problems with their evidence. But from our standpoint, the hearing in November 1996 was the most important case."

Like Wagner, Toro is also confident that its case has enough evidence to win at trial. "Toro has carefully considered the situation and made the decision that it must take protective action when Toro's proprietary technology and information is at risk," said Rick Parod, vice president and general manager of Toro's irrigation business.

"Unless there's a delay or settlement, we'll be ready to go to trial on September 23," added Buckley.

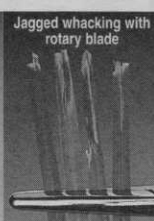
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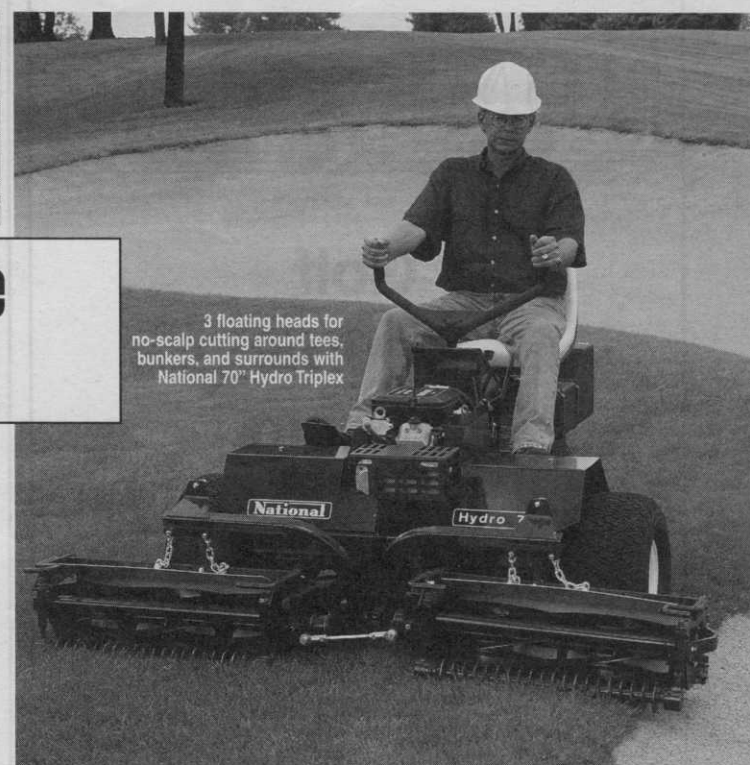
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