ANDERSON HEADS SALES OF BUSH HOG'S GOLF COURSE MULCHING MOWER

SELM, Ala. — Jimmy Anderson has been named national turf manager for Bush Hog's golf course products. Anderson is responsible for product development of Bush Hog's Mulch Pro TDM-11 golf course mulching mower. Mounted one above the other, the Mulch Pro's blades turn in opposite directions at speeds over 15,000 feet per minute. The lower blade mows the grass and lifts the clippings into the cutting circle. The upper blade cuts the clippings into fragments that are so small they disappear between the blades of grass.

HUMPHREYS RETURNS TO SCOTTS SOD DIVISION

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Co. announced that Larry Humphreys has returned to the company as territory manager, sod grower sales. Humphreys, who has been in the sod industry for 23 years, worked at Scotts until 1995 when he left to join a competitor company. Less than three years later, he returned to team up with Jeff Cain, corporate sales manager, to provide Scotts' technical assistance and sales service to sod growers.

NEPTUNE ADDS PORTER

LANSDALE, PA — Neptune Chemical Pump Company, a manufacturer of metering pumps and water treatment equipment, has named Fred Porter as operations manager. Porter is responsible for manufacturing, engineering and facilities management. Previously, he had been with the Milton Roy Company for 16 years, holding positions of production superintendent and plant manager at the flow control division.

LawnNibbler acquires taste for golf course turf

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A robot lawn mower called LawnNibbler, created at the University of Florida, is now being pruned the tees and greens of the neighborhood golf course. Designed by the university's Machine Intelligence Laboratory, the prototype can cut grass intelligently — avoiding dogs, kids, trees and golfers. It uses a radio wire buried at the perimeter of its work area and a navigation beacon system using sonar and infrared emitters and detectors that tell it where it is in its environment. The LawnNibbler has four wheels, a chain drive, electric motor and lead acid battery and it works on the principals of a tank: It can turn on a dime — or a divot.

"We've done no engineering to date in terms of endurance," explains Keith Doty, director of the lab who designed the original model two years ago, but he estimates the LawnNibbler can run several hours before needing a recharge. A graduate student, Kevin Hakala, added sensors and a guidance system last year.

The buried wire acts as an obstacle that the LawnNibbler cannot cross. Just 24 inches high, the LawnNibbler is just under 24 inches long and just over 12 inches wide. It weighs 55 pounds.

"The microprocessor control allows it to spin on itself, left, right, back, forward," Doty said.

The navigation system uses a trilaterization process, like a Global Positioning System (GPS), using a satellite, from three poles placed to define the LawnNibbler's territory.

"The game plan is to have a robot dog house — the LawnNibbler would go to the

Continued on page 77

AgriBioTech to take Zajac, affiliates

LAS VEGAS — Dr. Johnny Thomas, chief executive officer of AgriBioTech, has announced that the company has signed four separate letters of intent to purchase Zajac Performance Seeds Inc. and its Oregon affiliate (Zajac), Ohio Seed Co. (Ohio Seed), Van Dyke Seed Co. Inc. (Van Dyke) and Las Vegas Fertilizer Co. Inc. (LVF).

The four companies have combined annual revenues of approximately $46 million. The effective dates for the purchases are Jan. 1 to March 1; consequently, the acquisitions should contribute approximately $20 million of revenues to AgriBioTech's current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1998. AgriBioTech is purchasing the four companies for approximately $15 million in cash and 1,255,000 shares of AgriBioTech common stock with an aggregate value of $14.6 million.

Continued on page 77

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Taylor-Dunn Manufacturing Co. has entered the outdoor market with the Roadmaster, a new gasoline-powered vehicle. Designated the model RS-80, the Roadmaster is made of 16-gauge Diamond Plate Steel and can carry as much as 1,000 pounds over rough, uneven surfaces. The Roadmaster was designed for situations requiring around-the-clock operation, precluding the use of electric-powered vehicles that need recharging several hours a day. Powered by a quiet, nine-horsepower engine, the Roadmaster has a range of up to 100 miles. The engine meets the strict, low-emission standards of the California Air Resources Board. For more information, contact Taylor-Dunn at 310-293-0622.

Continued on page 76