Toison and Clark move on

HAMILTON, Mont. — Don Toison, the first public-sector winner of the national Environmental Steward Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is relocating to his home state in February.

Tolson, a certified golf course superintendent, is leaving the 27-hole Fox Hollow at Lakewood in Colorado, where he has worked since 1990. "This has been such a great job I didn't think I'd ever leave," Tolson said. "But the opportunity came to return home."

His new home will be The Stock Farm, a Tom Fazio-designed track that is midway through construction. A project of Winchester Development, it sits in the foothills of the Sapphire Mountains in the southwest corner of the state, in the Bitterroot Valley five miles from Bitter River. The 3,000-acre site will contain the private 18-hole golf course and 104 home sites, said the 1972 Montana State University graduate.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Mark Clark has accepted the position as superintendent at Troon Golf & Country Club here.

Clark comes to Troon via The Country Club of Green Valley, just outside Tucson, where he was the superintendent for the past 13 years.

A certified golf course superintendent, he received his bachelor of science in agronomy from the University of Arizona.

He served as president of the Cacti & Pines Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1981. Clark was also named by the governor to serve on the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission.

New options

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Insect’s development and good monitoring of insect populations is important. What is unique about these new “natural” products is that today’s formulations have the shelf life and handling characteristics of conventional pesticides. This makes them much easier to use than some of the older products of this type. True biological materials have been around for years, but research is constantly being done to improve them. Naturalis-T from Troy Biosciences is a formulation of the fungal pathogen Beauveria bassiana, a disease that attacks a wide range of insect pests. Mycotech Corp. is also working on a Beauveria product. To date, only limited testing data are available on these products, but plenty of testing is underway to determine the role this biological material will play in turfgrass insect management.

Entomogenous nematodes have also been around for years, produced by a number of companies and sold under a variety of trade names. One such product from Ecogen is Cruiser, which is directed against white grubs.

Success with these products has been quite variable, but they certainly have practical application in areas of environmental sensitivity. The bacteria Bacillus thuringiensis has been marketed for years against caterpillars and has limited use on turfgrass. New strains and formulations are constantly under development.

As new products are developed, it is important to stay abreast of how they might fit into a superintendent’s insect management program. Equally important is an understanding of how to best make them work. Several of these new products must be used differently from more conventional products. Their success and/or failure will depend on a thorough understanding of proper use, the products’ limitations, and knowledge of the pest to be controlled.

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