

BRIEFS



VERMEER APPOINTS CROWE

PELLA, Iowa — Vermeer Manufacturing Company recently appointed Craig Crowe to the position of manager of marketing training and events.

For the past three years, Crowe was a regional manager covering dealerships in the southeast area of the United States. Crowe's new responsibilities include the development of all training programs for Vermeer's global industrial dealer network, customers, and corporate marketing staff.



Craig Crowe

CRNOKRAK JOINS PARCAR CORP.

REEDSBURG, Wis. — Columbia ParCar has named John Crnokrak as its new vice president of sales and marketing. Crnokrak will be responsible for all sales and marketing of Columbia ParCar including new market opportunities, new product development and planning. Crnokrak joins Columbia ParCar from Baker Manufacturing Company.



John Crnokrak

ANDREWS ADDED TO NORTH

STAR SALES STAFF

ST. PAUL, Minn. — North Star Turf Supply has named Shane Andrews to its sales staff. Andrews, a former golf course superintendent, will cover a sales territory that includes west central Minnesota and a portion of the Twins Cities metro. Andrews is also a integral member of the New Golf Team with his strong background in new golf construction and grow-in. He most recently held the position of golf superintendent at Mississippi Dunes Golf Club in Cottage Grove.

ZENECA COMPLETES ISK DEAL

WILMINGTON, Del. — Zeneca Agrochemicals has completed the acquisition of the worldwide chlorothalonil business of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd. (ISK) (See *GCN* Feb.'98). It is also confirmed that Zeneca has completed the acquisition of distribution rights outside Asia Pacific to four of ISK's recently introduced products: the fungicide fluzinam, the nematocide fosthiazate and the herbicides, flazasulfuron and nicosulfuron.

Scotts acquires 80 percent of SSI, 'gene gun' license

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — The Scotts Company announced that it has acquired an 80 percent interest in Sanford Scientific Inc. (SSI), a leading research company in the rapidly advancing field of genetic engineering of plants.

SSI holds the exclusive license to use biolistic ("gene gun") technology in the commercial development of genetically transformed turf grasses, flowers and woody ornamental plants, which include rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, shrubs and decorative trees.

In addition, SSI has developed and licensed a broad portfolio of genes and genetic process technology with significant commercial potential.

This technology augments Scotts' genetic improvement program by allowing researchers to create desirable varieties of plants with value-added traits far beyond the capabilities of conventional plant breeding techniques. Targets of Scotts' research effort include disease and insect resistance, herbicide tolerance and other consumer-relevant traits, such as turf grasses that require less mowing and flowers with novel colors and fragrances.

Scotts estimates that it will commercialize certain genetically transformed plants within a few years.

Scotts acquired its interest from SSI founder and president Dr. John Sanford, who with his wife, is retaining a 20% interest and will remain with SSI. Sanford led the team of Cornell University scientists who invented the gene gun technology

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Terra takes two in the UK

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Terra has completed the acquisition of two nitrogen manufacturing plants in the United Kingdom for Imperial Chemical Industries PLC. The plants located in Billingham and Severnside, England, account for almost half of the UK ammonium nitrate production capacity.

With this acquisition, Terra now operates seven nitrogen fertilizer manufacturing facilities: four in the United States, one in Canada and two in England.

"Terra is excited about this expansion of our business into Europe," said Burton Joyce, Terra's president and

chief executive officer. "We've gained good facilities, a skilled and dedicated workforce, and a substantial share of a new market for the company. We're all looking forward to the development of our new business-Terra Nitrogen UK."

Terra Distribution also continued to increase its fertilizer product offerings in 1997 with the addition of blending facilities located in pivotal geographies. The company said that these facilities allow Terra to meet customers' specific fertilizer needs by providing secondary and micro-nutrient packages, custom blends and impregnation of

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PURSELL CUP GOLF CHALLENGE NETS THOUSAND FOR DIABETES

The 1997 Pursell Cup Charity Golf Challenge, an annual golf tournament for the benefit of juvenile diabetes, raised more than \$60,000, tripling the amount collected from the 1996 inaugural event. Pictured above is David Pursell, LPGA member Kelly Kuehne and the legendary Sam Snead at Greystone Golf Club in Birmingham, Ala.



NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

WAUKESHA, Wisc. — Ortho-Kinetics Inc., a 35 year-old company established in the design and production of compact electric vehicles in the commercial and medical equipment markets, has launched its Fairway Golf Cars division. The company said that its Model 8000 single rider golf car can improve pace of play by 25 percent. The 8000 is equipped with a proprietary digital power system ensuring superior power, reliability and performance. The Fairway 4850 may be the answer to providing accessibility to handicapped golfers in accordance with the ADA. The 4850 is equipped with a height adjustable pivoting seat with a tilting mechanism for an unobstructed swing from a seated position. For more information, contact Ortho-Kinetics at 412-542-6060.

Ransomes' updated E-Plex II plays in Sweden

By TREVOR LEDGER

HARROGATE, England — In an atmosphere of takeover "wariness" Ransomes has launched its all new "E-Plex II" electric greensmower replacing the original E-Plex which has proved so popular, in Sweden especially.

While impending financial gymnastics kept the city folk guessing, Ransomes presented its latest family addition at BTME '98 Harrogate.

The 48 Volt battery Pack offers enough power for approximately 3.5 hours usage which will see a maximum of 20 greens mowed on a single charge. The second generation of Ransomes' electric mowers includes refinements learned of experience; for example, the drive has a distinct hydrostatic feel to it and you can have power steering if you so wish.

The popular perception of Sweden as an ecological trailblazer is upheld with its devotion to electric equipment — over the last three years, 65 percent of Ransomes greensmower sales in Sweden have been E-Plexes. There is no danger of fuel or oil spills, there are no emissions, there is little noise and the running costs have been quoted at around 12 pounds per year.

In the UK, courses have been a little slower to warm to the E-Plex than in Sweden, but there are takers. Gleneagles uses one to mow around the Hotel alarmingly early every morning and is sensitive to its guests comfort; an un-named course in Essex had a noise abatement order slapped on it by disgruntled neighbors and has made the switch to electric.

With the takeover deal final, Textron now holds 100 percent of the electric greens mower market.

