IGM NAMES WEST COAST MANAGER
PALM DESERT, Calif. — International Golf Maintenance, Inc. (IGM) has named Z. Gordon Davidson regional manager of the West Coast office here. Davidson is a 1976 business administration graduate of California Baptist University and holds a masters of divinity degree from Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. He is a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, National Golf Course Owners Association, National Recreation and Park Administration and U.S. Golf Association. "Z’s experience in the contractual maintenance business will be a great asset to our team," said Scott Zakany, executive vice president of IGM.

HEART OF AMERICA SETS CONFERENCE
KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association (HAGCSA) announced its 1998 Golf & turf Conference will be held Nov. 4-5 at Harrah's North Kansas City Hotel & Conference Center here. This is the third annual event, featuring seminars and exhibits. The conference will feature a full day of programming for certified golf course superintendents, with tested Continuing Education Units, and a full-day U.S. Golf Association program for superintendents, club managers and other decision-makers from golf courses throughout the Midwest. Classes will be offered on advanced turf, landscaping and customer service for golf course employees. More information is available from Olivia Golden, HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, Mo. 64141-6264; e-mail ogolden@westernassn.com.

British scientists work on grass that stays green
By TREVOR LEDGER
BERYSTWYTH, Wales — Working from a strain of meadow fescue that stays green during drought and remains lush throughout all seasons, the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) is working to develop a perennial ryegrass with the same attributes.
IGER hopes to have seed available on the market around the turn of the century, according to Dr. Brian Clifford, coordinator of amenity and sports turf. "All plant varieties have to go through trials and stand up against other conventional varieties for other characteristics," Clifford said. "They have to get on a national list and meet certain DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability) trial requirements. Once you have that, you can market it in the UK."
IGER scientists said they discovered the so-called "staygreen" gene which causes yellowing in plants when the leaves are destined to die. By using DNA fingerprinting techniques to map genes, scientists are able to "silence" the gene responsible for yellowing. Plants turn yellow when placed under stress like heat, drought, salinity, pests, diseases, time and pollution. While the gene does not stop those stresses, it does remove the symptom — yellowing. Official trials at the Sports Turf Research Institute are under way and it is hoped that approval of new grass strains incorporating the "staygreen" gene will occur in the next two years.

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Use soil's natural storage capacity during grow-in
By RICK KROEGER
Technology has improved mowing equipment. Ingenuity has created aeration equipment, which technology improved further. Science has developed biological pesticides. And fertilizers have become, available in so many forms, it's difficult to keep up with all the new trade names.
Yet superintendents seem reluctant to abandon the old standby: "15-15-15 before planting." Because our knowledge of soil and water science has also improved, I feel it's time to re-evaluate this approach.
As the variety of readily available fertilizers has multiplied, superintendents have latched onto products which they understand and trust through experience — that is to say, through consistently safe usage.
Favorite products become favorites through predictability. Most superintendents have similar stories to tell about the time they tried "hype product X" and scrambled to recover from some form of negative fallout.
The wiser superintendents have returned to predictable, economical and environmentally responsible elemental fertilizers. They apply these to the ultimate storage system — the soil — for continuous availability, much as we store food in our pantries or refrigerators. Establishing and maintaining the nutritional balance of soil reserves allows the plant to energize its own genetic defenses against heat, drought, insects and disease. It also fortifies the plant to healthfully regenerate itself in response to close mowing and association.

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