COLUMBIA PARCAR HIRSES WITHIN
REEDSBURG, Wisc.—Columbia ParCar, a manufacturer of golf cars, announced several promotions within its home office. John Cnokrak, vice president of sales and marketing for the past year, has been promoted to executive vice president. Tom Simota has been promoted to vice president of operations. Duke Cramer, a veteran of 26 years with Columbia ParCar, takes over the newly created position, managing director. Columbia ParCar has also appointed C. Ward Utterbach as its sales/mar"keting support manager. Utterbach will be responsible for assisting the technical, sales and marketing support groups of Columbia ParCar in order to achieve their long range plans.

KEYSTONE SOUTH EXPANDS IN FLORIDA
ATLANTA — Keyst0ne South, a manufacturer of concrete modular retaining walls, has appointed Sam Ridell as sales representative of Keystone Retaining Wall Systems for Central and Northern Florida. Ridell will be based in Orlando. The company has also established a manufacturing and sales agreement for Keystone Retaining Wall Systems with Florida Rock Industries, Inc. Russ Hinote will be the sales representative covering the greater Tampa Bay-St. Petersburg area.

GROWTH PRODUCTS ADDS
HATTORI TO LINEUP
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—Growth Products Ltd., a producer of liquid fertilizers, announced the hiring of Kevin Hattori as its new director of public relations. Hattori's responsibilities will include the identification and pursuit of potential publicity opportunities for the company. He will also oversee all copywriting and function as the company's liaison with the media, industry associations, and universities.

KING SAFETY PROMOTES KIRK
ST. CHARLES, Mo.—King Safety Products announced the promotion of Douglas Kirk from sales manager to vice president and product manager. A company veteran, Kirk joined King in 1989 as a sales representative. His 27-year career includes positions in retail sales, market research and advertising. In his new position, Kirk will be responsible for four key areas at King. He will head up research & development for new and existing products, oversee all product testing, give company-wide technical support, and act as liaison with Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

TEXTRON TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS SPONSORS TURF MANAGERS SEMINAR

RACINE, Wis.—A group of more than 30 top graduating turf students from colleges and universities throughout the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand recently attended Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products' Future Turf Managers Seminar. "These students represent a bright future for the golf course maintenance industry," said president Phil Tralies. "They are knowledgeable, ambitious, and eager to put their education to work on golf courses around the world." The three-day event included presentations and panel discussions dealing with current and future issues of importance to golf course superintendents.

Foley takes Neary by Michael LeVans
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Foley Companies, the parent company of sharpening and grinding equipment manufacturer Foley United, has acquired Elk River, Minn.-based Neary Manufacturing Inc. including the Neary turf maintenance equipment division, related patents, manufacturing and distribution.

According to Jim Letourneau, president of Foley United, the deal marks a merger of technologies, yet,logistically, will remain transparent to the customer base.

"Foley Companies owns both of these lines now, which equates to over half of the market share," said Letourneau. "The customer will see no change as far as who they're dealing with and where they're calling. Both lines will be marketed in the marketplace through independent distribution and we're maintaining a Neary sales force and a

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EPA to reassess existing pesticide tolerances
LAWRENCE, Kan.—The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is seeking relief from the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), which changes the method of determining human exposure to chemicals.

The legislation, which became law in August 1996, is to be implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Prior to enactment of FQPA, risk from pesticide use was measured only from residues from dietary exposures. Under FQPA, the EPA must consider the aggregate exposure for each pesticide, including non-diary means (i.e., residential, lawn and garden uses). While the previous legislation required a separate evaluation for each pesticide, the law now demands that the evaluation include all those pesticides sharing a common mechanism of toxicity.

Under FQPA, the EPA must reassess all existing pesticide tolerances (more than 9,700) within the next 10 years. Concerns for the golf course maintenance industry include a plan to eliminate all organophosphates (OPs) by August 1999.

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH: SMITHCO'S 3-IMPLEMENT GREEN STAR
WAYNE, Pa. — The Green Star RBS System, for the rolling, brushing and spiking of greens and turf, is now available on all Smithco bunker rakes. This system also mounts quickly and easily on Toro Sand Pro and Ransomes/Cushman bunker raking units. The Green Star offers a complete choice of implements to meet all types of turf requirements. The spiker implement relieves the compaction of the soil and allows water and air to reach the turf's roots, at the same time penetrating to the proper depth for drainage. The brush unit incorporates top dressing quickly and evenly, and can also be used to smooth all types of soil surfaces. The roller system is mounted behind the bunker rake's wheels, in order to deliver after-the-wheel smoothness, for true and fast greens and turf. All three implements mount with Smithco's exclusive Quad-Pivot hook-up system, designed to allow maximum flexibility and conformity to undulating terrain. These implements are offered individually, or as a complete three-function system. For more information, contact 610-689-4009.

SRO, O.B. team on the green
By Michael LeVans
CORVALLIS, Ore.—In the age of the exclusive supplier agreement it's not just the Big Iron that's going to reap the benefits. Seed Research of Oregon (SRO) and golf course management firm O.B. Sports have announced an agreement under which O.B. Sports will purchase its grass seed needs for overseeing and new projects from Seed Research.

According to the companies, the agreement includes superintendent education, help with grass selection and assistance with all aspects of turf management.

"We wanted to make sure, from a ryegrass standpoint, that we could lock into a supply that we would have over the course of three years so we weren't susceptible to the whims of Mother Nature," said Bob Marshall, president of northwestern operations for O.B. Sports. "So this not so much based on price as it is to

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U.S. Microbics readies new bug plant

CARLSBAD, Calif. — U.S. Microbics, Inc. has announced that its new manufacturing facility is proceeding on schedule as contractors install fixtures, laboratories and production equipment in preparation for startup of microbial fermentation and blending operations sometime this month.

The company expects to initially produce limited quantities of microbes in its pilot plant operation with both 14-liter and 130-liter fermentors.

These vessels will be used to ferment microbial cultures which will be blended into agricultural products used for plant growth enhancement and water savings for applications on golf courses.

The company also anticipates the installation of a 1,000-liter fermentor within the next six months to increase its microbial capacity to meet Bio-Raptor demand. The larger fermentor will enable the company to scale up pilot plant operations and internally ferment microbial blends rather than rely on third party fermentation.

The 22,000 square feet of office and warehouse space should be ready for full occupancy by August 15 and management eagerly waits for the contractor's dust to fall. Company Executive Vice President, Mery Robinson, stated, "This new facility will culminate our efforts to restart the manufacturing operations after a six-year hiatus. With numerous past customers requesting microbial products we will finally be in a position to start satisfying their needs during this fiscal year."

TPI survey says sod sales hot

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Golf courses are wielding a bigger stick in the sod business than ever before, according to a recent survey by Turfgrass Producers International.

The survey—which polled TPI members on the distribution of their 1997 sales—showed that the percentage of the nation's turfgrass sod purchased by golf courses has nearly doubled in the last decade.

In 1988, a mere 4.7 percent of all sod purchases related to golf course development and renovation.

But by 1997, that percentage had grown to 8.14 percent.

"Turfgrass sod enables a new or renovated course to open earlier and generate cash sooner," explains Doug Fender, executive director of TPI, noting that "better installation procedures and heartier cultivars are also leading to increased use of turfgrass sod on golf courses."

Government statistics place nationwide sod sales at nearly $500 million annually.

Members of Turfgrass Producers International include nearly 1,000 turfgrass sod producers in 36 countries.

EPA/pesticides

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facturers could meet requirements of the law if: decisions are based on scientific data and actual pesticide use; allow for development of scientific methodology to meet the new safety standards and revised objectives for protecting human health and the environment; and establishes and communicates open, uniform and scientifically practical policies to guide consistent implementation.

Among the 'default assumptions' the EPA can make in applying the law is the contention agriculture (crop and livestock operators) and homeowners (with their amateur pesticide applicators) will use the product with maximum frequency and in the maximum dosage allowed by law.

GCSA has embarked on an extensive membership education and communication plan to address the issue, and has joined forces with numerous groups to work with lawmakers on the implementation of the law.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Queianr-Ca is a newly available amino acid chelated calcium product that corrects calcium deficiencies in turfgrass upon application. Queianr-Ca provides readily available calcium chelated with amino acids so that it is easily absorbed by the leaves and/or the root system of the plant regardless of soil and water conditions. The unique formulation of amino acids used for chelation was developed not only to facilitate absorption by the leaves and roots, but to increase mobility of the calcium within the plant as well.

Queianr-Ca is normally applied as a foliar spray and may also be applied through irrigation. Either way, it is tank-mix compatible with herbicides, soluble fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulators. It will even help improve the efficiency of most of these treatments by increasing their absorption and translocation within the plant.

Best of all, Queianr-Ca is economical to use and it protects the environment.

For more information about Queianr-Ca call Nutramax Laboratories at: 800-925-5187