New chemistry abounds in 1999

**• Precision Labs introduces long-lasting cure for LDS**

*By ANDREW OVERBECK*

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Say good-bye to hand watering, according to Precision Labs. The company said its new wetting agent, Cascade, utilizes high performance water infiltration chemistry that allows a single application of the product to eliminate localized dry spot (LDS) for six to 18 months.

“We don’t know what Cascade does exactly,” said Precision Labs president, Richard Wohlner. “But we do know that it interrupts the influence of the hydrophobic coating that builds up on sand grains.”

Hydrophobicity is caused by the break down of organic matter on the surface of the soil, giving the LDS plant a reservoir of fungicide available for protection.

According to Novartis, Compass holds several advantages over conventional systemic fungicides. Since the movement of systemic fungicides is upward, the protected part of the plant is often mowed off within a 21-28 day period leaving the plant vulnerable to disease. Further, systemic fungicides protect from the inside-out while Compass protects from the outside-in.

According to Novartis research and development specialist, Michael Agnew, systemic fungicides allow for damage to occur since the disease does not begin to be controlled until it gets inside the plant. With Compass, the fungicide is imbedded in the waxy layer of the plant, preventing disease from actually entering it.

“With Compass, the fungicide is imbedded in the waxy layer of the plant, protecting from the inside-out, while Compass protects from the outside-in,” said Davis.

Additionally, Compass eliminates turf shock, the yellowing and discoloration. (Continued on page 64)

**• Chipco Proxy PGR forges new ground**

*By ANDREW OVERBECK*

RALEIGH, N.C. — Rhone-Poulenc has introduced Chipco Proxy, a new plant growth regulator (PGR) that utilizes such a unique mode of action on cool season grasses that it may require, according to researchers, a completely new classification. According to Rhone-Poulenc, Chipco Proxy is formulated to behave differently than other PGRs. Instead of affecting existing plant growth, Proxy focuses on controlling new growth, encouraging lateral growth, branching and greater root depth and turf density. This provides three distinct advantages according to product manager, Jim Davis.

The first is the length of control. “On cool season grasses, especially bluegrass and rye, we experience seven weeks of control,” said Davis.

Additionally, Chipco Proxy eliminates turf shock, the yellowing and discoloration. (Continued on page 65)

By MICHAEL LEVANS

MOLINE — John Deere has launched the JD ProConditioned line of golf and turf products, the company’s first formal program to help put turf equipment rolling out of a lease back on the golf course.

According to Mark E. Bodwell, John Deere’s manager of product support services for golf and turf sales worldwide, the used market is soaring, especially as the number of lease rollovers increases and the number of renovations and additions continues to climb.

“You’ll also find a lot of new courses that might be adding another nine or 18. They’re more likely to use reconditioned as grow-in equipment,” said Bodwell.

But the bulk of the market will continue to be courses outside of the “premium” category. “A three- (Continued on page 64)

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Cascade

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soil which leaves behind a coating of fulvic and humic acids that coat sand and soil particles in the soil profile. Cascade combats this acidity by penetrating the soil profile and interrupting or possibly removing the barrier altogether. “This allows for greater residual activity, and also influences deeper root growth for better turf quality, color and drought resistance,” said Wohlner.

This leads to smaller, less frequent and more effective applications. Wohlner recommends a split application of 8 ounces of Cascade per 1,000 sq. ft. seven to ten days apart.

However, the effectiveness of Cascade varies due to climate. “The higher the rate of biological activity, the faster the hydrophobicity returns,” said Wohlner. “Therefore in climates like Minnesota, we can get better results out of the product than in Georgia or Florida where the effectiveness is around six months.”

While Cascade has a high efficacy rate, achieving visible results after 48 hours, Wohlner recommends that it be applied in the spring, well before LDS appears. “Superintendents are finding that Cascade will not only get rid of LDS for the bulk of the playing season, but it allows for faster firmer greens all summer,” said Wohlner.

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—Richard Wohlner

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JD partners with NGCOA

MOLINE, IL — On the heels of the introduction of its JD ProConditioned line of golf and turf products, John Deere has announced its partnership with the National Golf Course Owners Association’s (NGCOA) Smart Buy Network.

Under the agreement, John Deere will be the exclusive equipment supplier, offering both its new line of JD ProConditioned golf and turf products as well as new equipment, to the NGCOA Smart Buy Network. NGCOA members will also be able to use John Deere Credit.

ProConditioned

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year lease usually goes to a premium course,” said Mark Bodwell. “When that equipment comes out of a lease it is usually well maintained. The B and C courses that didn’t have that kind of capital to buy new up front will purchase used equipment.”

According to John Deere, any machine in the John Deere line of golf and turf products can be eligible for the program provided it meets company requirements.

To qualify equipment, Deere technicians will run checks on engine, transmission, power train, hydraulics, electrical systems, cutting units, aeration and chemical applicators.

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