Gene that limits plant growth discovered

**By Andrew Overbeck**

SAN DIEGO — A team of genetic scientists at the Salk Institute lead by Dr. Joanne Chory have discovered the gene that controls plant height by limiting the activity of a growth hormone. The scientists have been successful in transferring the gene to tobacco plants and experiments are underway with rice. If they can get it to work in corn or rice, then the chances of it working in turf go from promising to highly possible.

In the popular press, the discovery of the growth gene has garnered headlines touting the possibility of "no-mow" turf, prompting joy among homeowners who believe they will... 

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Century's Top Supers: Sherwood Moore, Warren Bidwell

**By Peter B. Lai S**

Warren Bidwell and Sherwood Moore were the most influential superintendents of the 1900s, according to a Golf Course News' survey of past Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presidents, former Canadian Golf Superintendents Association presidents and current GCSAA chapter presidents.

Bidwell — a 64-year GCSAA member, national director and Distinguished Service Award winner — received the most votes among deceased nominees. He was followed, in order, by Colonel John Morley and Chester Mendenhall (tied for second), Joe Valentine, Leo Feser, Harold Stodola, Bill Lyons, Marshall Farnham and Tom Johnson.

Moore — a longtime GCSAA member who served as... 

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New openings eclipse 500

**By Mark Leslie**

JUPITER, Fla. — The golf boom of the 1990s has... continued into 2000 — in a record-eclipsing way. Some 509 golf courses came on line in the United States in 1999, surpassing the record 468 set in 1995, according to the National Golf Foundation (NGF).

At the same time, the pipeline continues to be full. At the end of the year, 946 courses were under construction and 908 were in planning. This compared to the end of 1998 when 1,069 were under construction and 708 were... 

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Meadowbrook becomes 3rd-largest manager

**By Peter B. Lai S**

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Meadowbrook Golf Group has acquired the balance of Fairways Acquisition Corp., the entity formed to facilitate last fall’s 30-course acquisition of KSL Fairways from KSL Recreation Corp. Meadowbrook now owns 100 percent of Fairways Acquisition Corp.

KSL Fairways was the non-resort division of KSL Recreation, which continues to own such high-profile properties as Doral in Miami and LaQuinta and PGA West in Palm Springs, Calif.

Fairways Golf consisted of 24 golf properties primarily in Virginia, Maryland, ...
BRIEFS

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The Indiana University administration has been in talks since September with the private developer Indiana Club LLC to lease land for the construction of a championship course that would be home to the golf team, a private club of 2,400 members and limited public play. The course would be located near Griffy Lake. Men’s Golf Coach Mike Mayer said the current course, on which an estimated 40,000 rounds are played a year, has reached its saturation point.

MIAMI — Greens To You, Inc. has acquired Costa Greens Golf Club located near Doral. Plans are in progress for adding $1 million of improvements to this daily-fee facility, including new cart paths and sand bunkers, extensive tree pruning, new maintenance equipment and renovations to the irrigation system, clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant.

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Tidewater Golf Club here has completed its three-month renovation and reopened for public play Jan. 15. The greens were planted with A1, an improved variety of bentgrass that better tolerates the Southeastern climate.

New courses open at record pace

Continued from page 1

As the golf industry entered the 1990s the thought of 300 courses opening in one year was extraordinary. But when 351 opened in 1991 that started a momentum that accelerated through the decade. The biggest jump occurred between 1994, when 381 new courses opened, and 1995 when the figure rocketed to 468.

Asked to explain the phenomenon, American Society of Golf Course Architects President John LaFoy said: “Regardless of what any of the golf pundits say, what it boils down to is that people feel they need more golf courses. They are building according to demand. That’s the only thing that makes any sense to me.

“There is demand being met, especially for affordable and accessible courses. You’ve seen a shift in the type of course being built and who they’re being built for.”

Richard Singer, who as director of consulting at the NGF has spent the last few months studying the strategic perspectives of golf into 2010, predicted changes and warned: “We need to be ready as an industry to react to those changes. We have found that supply is not a constant thing.”

Continued on next page

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Chlorpyrifos re-assessment continues to move forward

By ANDREW OVERBECK

With the initial public comment period completed, it is now up to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to decide what use restrictions, if any, to place on the widely-used organophosphate chlorpyrifos. In the coming months, the EPA will evaluate the comments it has received from end users and industry and environmental groups and then will release a revised risk assessment that will likely include proposed mitigation measures.

As a group, golf course superintendents have been vigilant in their support of chlorpyrifos, known to them as Dursban and an effective method to combat cut worms and other pests. Many do not want to see Dursban go the way of Diazinon, which was banned from use on golf courses in the late 1980s.

"Diazinon was the first choice and when it was banned, superintendents turned to Dursban," said Terry Buchen, president of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International in Williamsburg, Va. "We have had significantly more comments sent in with chlorpyrifos than on other compounds that have gone through the process," said Tim Maniscalco, manager of government and public affairs at Dow AgroSciences. "A good amount of these have been from superintendents ... the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has done a good job to get the word out about how the process worked and what was at stake. We have had great user-group response."

Through its government relations department, the GCSAA has been instrumental in getting the word out. "We are waging an intensive war," said Carrie Riordan GCSAA government relations manager. "We sent out e-mails to our 600-person government relations network and all of our 101 chapters and their user groups."

Another change will not come easy. "It is one of our primary insecticides. I am familiar with it and I have never looked into using anything else because I have always had good results," said Carl Tegetmeyer, superintendent at Holiday Hills Resort and Country Club in Branson, Mo. "We have had significantly more comments sent in with chlorpyrifos than on other compounds that have gone through the process."