

BRIEFS

PARCAR APPOINTS CRAMER

Reedsburg, Wis. — Columbia ParCar Corp. has appointed Duke Cramer to regional sales manager in the Midwestern states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and northern Illinois. Duke Cramer will be responsible for Columbia ParCar's fleet and individual golf car sales as well as sales of their new Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) product line. Cramer has been with the company almost since its inception in 1984. Previous to his new assignment, he was the company's production manager and east coast regional sales manager.



Duke Cramer

PAR AIDE ACQUIRES ACCUFORM BRAND

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Par Aide Products Co. has acquired the Accuform brand of golf course bunker rakes from Midwest Rake Co. LLC of Warsaw, Ind. "Accuform, with the introduction of their short tine bunker rake design in 1988, literally changed the look and function of bunker rakes in the industry," said Steve Garske, president of Par Aide. "This acquisition provides Par Aide with a full line of Accuform branded maintenance tools for our superintendent customers."

Midwest Rake is a leading manufacturer of high quality tools for turf maintenance, as well as epoxy, cement and asphalt coating applications.

LOFTS NAMES RUSHE, EVERHART

MADISON, Ga. — Lofts Seed, a division of Pennington Seed has appointed Scott Rushe and Jeffrey Everhart as territory managers for the Professional Products Group. Rushe and Everhart will be responsible for the sales and marketing of Pennington's professional turfgrass varieties through a network of professional turfgrass distributors in the United States.

EWING OPENS ODESSA BRANCH

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Ewing Irrigation Products has opened its 89th branch location in Odessa, Texas. Paula Holguin, who has more than 15 years for industry experience, will manage the new branch.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Andersons launches new branding strategy

By A. OVERBECK

DALLAS, Texas — One year after announcing its acquisition of the Scotts Co.'s professional turf business, the Andersons Co. has introduced a new branding strategy to market the combined product portfolio.

While the new brand of products, Andersons Golf Products, combines the Anderson's Tee Times and the Scotts' Pro Turf brands, the formulations remain unchanged.

"We are changing the name and the bag," said Tom Handel, vice president and general manager. "The product inside the bag is not changing." The new packaging will be phased in over the next few months.

A majority of the product line is being produced at the Andersons production facilities, although some of the products dependent on Scott's proprietary technology will continue to be produced by

Scotts as part of a long-term supply agreement.

The Andersons sales, technical, customer service and marketing staffs are already in place to support the new brand.

"We have assessed the new and different needs of the market," said director of sales Allen Figley. "We have 30-

plus sales people in the field in addition to three technical service managers."

The distribution channels also have been sorted.

"We are committed to a strong independent distribution network," Figley said. "We have filled all the voids to make our network complete."

ONLINE TOOLS

Distributors also have a new online ordering tool at their disposal. The system, which was rolled out March 1, allows distributors to order products directly from the company's Web site. Once an order is sent, the distributor receives

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UHS set to expand business

By A. OVERBECK

DALLAS, Texas — Following a year that saw profits surge 18 percent, United Horticultural Supply (UHS) is primed to continue expanding. The fertilizer, chemical and seed distributor has grown to 77 sites in 37 states and has 143 full-time sales representatives.

At the company's 10th annual supplier breakfast at the GCSAA Conference and Show, business manager Terry Boehm outlined UHS's expectations for the coming year.

CONSOLIDATING DIVISIONS

The company will start with the reorganization of its two northern divisions. The Great Lakes and Midwest divisions will be consolidated to form the massive Central division that will stretch from Colorado to Ohio. Former Midwest manager Bob Flynn will head the new division and former Great Lakes division leader Russ Mitchell will take on the responsibilities of the newly created

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Toro locks up Disney World deal

By JAY FINEGAN

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Toro Co. has scored a major coup in terms of sales and visibility by locking up an exclusive deal with Walt Disney World, the most popular vacation destination on earth.

The agreement covers all facilities at Disney World, from theme parks and hotel grounds to the five golf courses on site. Landscapes within the resort are equivalent to some 3,000 football fields and are cared for by a staff of 650 horticulture and landscape professionals.

As part of the deal, new Toro irrigation systems will be installed this year. The Magnolia Course will be completely renovated this spring, including installation of a brand new irrigation system. The Palm Course will undergo renovation later this year.

AGROTAIN Int'l ready with UMAXX technology

DALLAS, Texas — Lange-Stegmann Co. has launched AGROTAIN International, a new subsidiary that will manage the sales and developments of the Agrico Turf II and SuperU products that the company acquired last July from IMC-Agrico.

The company's UMAXX urea nitrogen product will be marketed to turf professionals. UMAXX contains a urease inhibitor that prevents volatilization into the atmosphere for 14 days and a nitrification inhibitor that stops the conversion of ammoniacal nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen for up to 16 weeks. The chemistry maximizes urea nitrogen efficiency by virtually eliminating the risk of nitrogen loss to the environment.

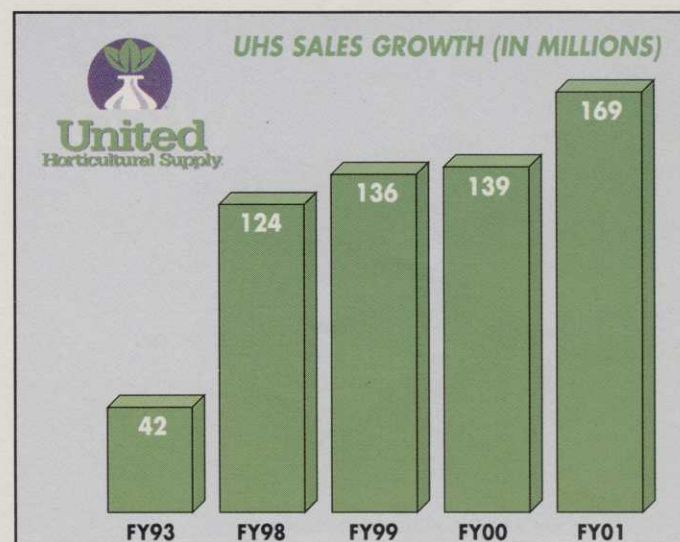
"The stabilized nitrogen prevents volatilization and nitrification protecting the environment from potentially harmful nitrogen losses and provides plants with ammoniacal nitrogen for 12 to 16 weeks," said Alan Nees, vice president of turf and ornamental sales for Agrotain International. "Extending the life of urea nitrogen also means fewer applications and less expense per acre. It is one of the best performing, most economical nitrogen sources available to the turf industry."

Simplot Turf and Horticulture will be the primary marketer of UMAXX, although it is a non-exclusive agreement.

"We are still in the early stages as far as distribution is concerned," said Michael Stegmann, who sold Lange-Stegmann's specialty products division to Simplot last September.

The UMAXX technology will be marketed to the Lange-Stegmann customer base that Simplot now serves as a result of that acquisition, and through Simplot Partners in selected areas. The new ingredient will be formulated into select products under Simplot's BEST and Lange fertilizer brands.

— Staff reports



Pennington enters Chinese market

MADISON, Ga. — Pennington Seed has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Beijing-based China Turf and Forage Co. for Plantation turf-type tall fescue in China. Under the terms of the agreement, China Turf and Forage will promote and market Plantation to the growing Chinese turf market.

"China is one of the last growth markets in the world," said Dave Holman, director of international sales for Pennington. "The privatization of the seed industry and the growing interest in both turf

products and erosion control and stabilization provides a lot of opportunity for grass seed in China."

China currently imports 4,000 tons of seed per year from Oregon alone, said Holman. "It could eventually grow to five or six times that," he said.

According to Holman, Pennington will be evaluating other turf seed for export to China and expects to have another three to four varieties in China in the next couple of years.

— Staff reports

Simplot Partners adds facilities out west

SAN DIEGO — Simplot Partners has acquired the U.S. operations of Vancouver, B.C.-based distribution company Evergro.

Evergro's three U.S. locations will enable Simplot Partners to better serve customers in the Pacific Northwest, said vice president and general manager Nick Spardy.

"We have 22 sales and distribution centers in the West, Midwest and East," he said. "This acquisition allows us to increase our focus on marketing to turf and horticultural customers in the Pacific Northwest."

Evergro will continue to dis-

tribute turf and ornamental products to its customers in western Canada.

ON THE MOVE IN CALIFORNIA

In addition to the Evergro acquisition, Simplot Partners has also taken over Turf Solutions, based in Oxnard, Calif. The distribution center has custom seed blending capabilities of more

than 50,000 pounds of production per day, as well as a separate blender for specialty grasses, such as bentgrass or Bermudagrass blends.

Michael Sommer, general manager and senior turf consultant for Turf Solutions, will join the Simplot Partners as a seed specialist.

Profile purchases Wood Recycling

BUFFALO GROVE, Ill. — Profile Products LLC has purchased the hydraulic mulch business of Wood Recycling Inc., the manufacturer of Re-Fiber and Hydroblanket brand products.

"Profile has distributed Re-Fiber products for several

years so this is a natural fit for us," said Mark Lewry, president of Profile Products.

Re-Fiber wood-based mulching products rapidly absorb moisture to create homogeneous slurry in hydraulic mulching equipment.

UHS rolling

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technical services position.

Personnel, not market conditions, drove the decision, according to Boehm. "We had the opportunity and the personnel in place," he said. "They [Flynn and Mitchell] wanted to do it."

UHS TO TRIPLE SEED BUSINESS

UHS entered the seed business earlier this year with the creation of United Seed Production and plans a full-scale rollout of its national seed program this year.

"We intend to triple our seed business," said Boehm. "We believe that we have the best product line-up in the business." Varieties on offer include Palmer III perennial ryegrass, Crenshaw creeping bentgrass, Apollo Kentucky bluegrass and Shenandoah II tall fescue.

DIVISION GOALS

The new Central division endeavors to double its golf business in the coming year and open a new Chicago office. "We will also centralize purchasing and streamline the product mix," said Flynn.

The Western division will also be working to build market share, said manager Mike Thurlow. "We grew 20 percent last year, and had \$70 million in sales, which is 40 percent of UHS's business," he said. "We will work this year to establish Signature brands and the seed line and take advantage of the weak competition." The division also will look to add facilities in Sacramento and San Francisco.

After spending a year investing in facilities, the Southern division is also looking to grow the new seed business. "We want to grow sales 30 percent and double our seed business," said manager Steve Jackson. In order to meet these goals, Jackson will be adding staff in Houston, Austin, Tampa and Memphis and adding capacity in Oklahoma City and Memphis. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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Patent Pending

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Introducing Reelcraft's Direct Underground Maintenance Retractable Hose Reel System, or DGM, which is specifically designed for syringing golf course greens. The DGM system features a 75-foot, 3/4" I.D. retractable water hose installed underground at each green. The system enables the superintendent to quickly and easily syringe the green when necessary and to just as quickly retract the hose

out of the way—and out of sight—when finished.

The DGM system allows for a quick response in urgent situations such as extreme heat stress or dry conditions, while preserving the quality of the golf course by reducing turf wear and tear from driving carts and dragging hoses. In addition, hand watering allows for a more even and isolated watering distribution on the green.

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