EPA wants money for 2,4,5-T disposal

While the fate of 2,4,5-T has not been officially resolved, EPA has issued a revised request for proposal for disposal of 30 million pounds of Silvex-containing fertilizer. The request states that "the contractor shall weigh and safely dispose of 30,000,000 pounds (approximately 30,430 cubic yards) of dry granular lawn fertilizer materials which contain Silvex and its contaminant TCDD in a permanent manner that will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and so as to avoid unreasonable adverse effects on the environment. Silvex generally contains the levels of approximately 20 parts per billion and is a hazardous material (sic)." $2 million is available for this disposal during the current EPA fiscal year. EPA has estimated it will need at least $4 million.

FTA offers A/V turf program

The Florida Turfgrass Association now has an audio visual library available to members featuring educational information about nematodes, ornamental insects, turf insects, and turfgrass diseases.

The ornamental insect slide set describes sucking insects, mites, chewing insects, leaf miners and boring insects. Detailed information is relayed regarding life cycles, hosts and symptoms, and timing of major infestations.

The disease set discusses 12, including dollar spot, pythium, fairy ring, leaf spot, rust and slime molds.

For more information, contact the Florida Turfgrass Association, 1520 Edgewater Dr., Ste. E, Orlando, FL 32804, or call 305/425-1581.

Brooks joins Musser board

James R. Brooks, National sales manager for GOLF BUSINESS magazine, has joined the board of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. Brooks, in accepting the post, said "I am sincerely flattered by the Board's confidence in my abilities, and stand ready to assist the Musser Foundation in all endeavors to build a stronger turfgrass profession and industry." The Musser Foundation assists research by providing grants and is seeking to establish a long term funding system through financial investments. Guided by Dr. Fred Grau, the board needs the contributions of all interested in upgrading the management of fine turf.

First of three PGA courses open

The 2,340-acre PGA National Resort Community was officially opened, and the first of three championship courses dedicated and opened for play. The course was named "The Haig" in honor of golfing great Walter Hagen, who won two U.S. Opens and both the British Open and the PGA Championship four times from 1914 to 1929. The course is 6,973 yards long and was designed by George and Tom Fazio.

The second course, the Tournament Championship Course, is now under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The $2.6 million PGA headquarters is also expected to be finished late this year.

Evergreen bagworm will hit Texas again

The evergreen bagworm, the most damaging of 16 bagworms, will again be a problem in Texas, according to Dr. Robert Crocker, researcher at the Texas Ag Experiment Station, and H.A. Turney, entomologist with the Texas Ag Extension Service. Although the evergreen bagworm seems partial to evergreen ornamentals such as arbor vitae and junipers, both entomologists agree that it will also attack plums, sycamores and a bewildering range of Texas plants, if conditions are right.

When natural predators fail to control the populations, Crocker and Turney recommend hand-picking where only a few low-growing plants are involved. Some of the more effective insecticides on the market include Sevin and malathion. Control is better with an application following egg hatch in the spring and early summer while the bagworms are young.

Dipel and Thuricide, commercial preparations of a bacterium, offer biological control. The bacterium causes paralysis of the worm's stomach after feeding. Death results in several hours.

Lofts, Southern Turf form Sunbelt Seeds, Inc.

Sunbelt Seeds, Inc., a new company based in Tucker, Georgia, will specialize in marketing programs to the southern recreational turf market. Sam Ellington, President of Sunbelt Seeds, explained how his company's unique resources will benefit the sun belt. "Our new company is in an incomparable position due to the proven service and expertise of the two parent organizations. Through the benefit of a year-round product emphasis, we can supply the Southern market with leading varieties of turf-type seed at very competitive prices and with superior service. Our clientele can refer their unique regional turf problems to our experienced agronomists for solutions." Pictured at left, announcing the formation of the company are, left to right, standing: John Morrissey, Rich Hurley, Jon Loft; seated, left to right: Peter Loft, Sam Ellington and Tim Bowyer.