Briefs continued from page 14

mass and depth in addition to overall plant
vitality and visual quality.

Terms of the acquisition were not dis-
closed. On Sept. 7, NASDAQ halted trading
of Eco Soil.

In related news, Ames, Iowa-based
Becker Underwood, manufacturer and mar-
keter of Rhizobium inoculants, seed coat-
ings, specialty colorants and other bio-agro-
nomic products, acquired the RhizUp brand
of inoculants from Eco Soil Systems.

Texttron expects loss;
signs contract with Meadowbrook

Texttron Inc., parent of Texttron Golf, Turf &
Specialty Products, cited the U.S. economic
slowdown and the impact of the Sept. 11
terror attacks when it announced it would
post a third-quarter loss of about 25 cents a
share. The company said it plans to curtail
production throughout many of its busi-
nesses and will cut 2,500 jobs.

In other company news, Augusta, Ga-
based Texttron Golf, Turf & Specialty Prod-
ucts signed a five-year contract with Mead-
owbrook Golf and Meadowbrook's
subsidiary International Golf Maintenance to
be the exclusive provider of golf cars, turf
equipment and specialty vehicles at all of
Meadowbrook's U.S. facilities.

Meadowbrook Golf is a Florida-based
management company that owns, leases,
manages or maintains more than 100 golf
facilities throughout the United States.

Deere completes Century purchase

Moline, Ill-based Deere & Co. completed its
previously announced purchase of Richton
International, parent company of Century
Supply.

Dow Ag acquires rights to MACH 2

Indianapolis-based Dow AgroSciences
LLC completed acquisition of the out-
standing shares of RohMid LLC and its
MACH 2 (halofenozide) turf insecticide
from BASF.

Last June, Dow AgroSciences acquired a
50 percent interest in RohMid when it pur-
chased Rohm and Haas Company's agricul-
tural chemicals business.

Several golf course maintenance industry companies
and courses were quick to support the nationwide re-
lief effort following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in

Shortly after the tragedy, Standard Golf announced it was
donating profits from the sales of its U.S. golf flags and red,
white and blue Royaline flagsticks to the American Red Cross
Disaster Fund. The offer is good through Nov. 25.

"Immediately after the terrorist attack, golf courses across
the country began showing their patriotism by flying our
U.S. golf flags with our red, white and blue flagsticks on their
greens," said John Kelly, Standard Golf's marketing director.

Texttron and John Deere also offered their support. Tex-
tron donated $100,000 to the American
Red Cross fund and equipment.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with
the victims and their loved ones," said
Gregory Hyland, chairman and CEO of
Texttron Golf, Turf & Specialty Prod-
ucts. "In America, it's no longer business
as usual. The business community has
rallied to a higher cause."

Texttron's OmniQuip and E-Z-GO
Continued on page 20

In light of Sept. 11, it's prudent for
those who have ammonium ni-
trate fertilizers in stock to report
the amounts and location to authori-
ties. It's possible that these invento-
ries could be stolen and used as pot-
tential bomb materials.

Local distributors may be asked
to pick up your existing supplies and
store them so that the number of loca-
tions will be reduced to fewer and
more secure warehouses.

Please pay attention to any ship-
ments and deliveries you have
pending. While there is no need for
panic, we are in a heightened state
of awareness and this is just one
small way we can do something to
eliminate easy access to potentially
dangerous materials.

In a related matter, Responsible
Industry for a Sound Environment
(RISE) received an inquiry from the
U.S. Department of Commerce
about the impact on the pesticide in-
dustry of the terrorist attacks and
from EPA as to industry security
measures against such possible at-
tacks. In late September, an EPA
Pesticide/ Chemical Safety Advisory
was issued and sent to all pesticide
registrants.

The advisory notes that the Of-
line of Pesticide Programs is coordi-
nating with other EPA program
areas to encourage pesticide indus-
try groups and facilities to review all
security measures during this
"heightened state of national alert."

EPA urges pesticide industry
members to review the agency's
chemical safety alert, "Chemical Ac-
cident Prevention: Site Security,"
posted at www.epa.gov/swercep/
p-small.htm#alerts.

--- Joel D. Jackson, Golfdom
contributing editor and CGCS
Maryland Tornado Damages NTEP

The tornado that killed two University of Maryland students in College Park, Md., Sept. 24, also caused an estimated $41 million damage to the government's largest agricultural research facility in Beltsville, Md. The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) is headquartered at the facility.

Kevin Morris, NTEP executive director, says about 100,000 square feet of greenhouses at the sprawling agricultural research facility were badly damaged.

"We came out of it pretty well, considering," Morris said.

Continued from page 18

loaned $1 million worth of light construction and transportation equipment to the New York City Fire Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Cushman offered 12 Trucksters to the New York City Police Department.

Deere created the "John Deere Special Fund for America" to provide the company's employees, retirees, dealers and customers the opportunity to send monetary aid supporting recovery efforts and affected families. The John Deere Foundation launched the fund with a $250,000 contribution.

"These tragic events have caused great sorrow in our company and throughout the world," said Robert W. Lane, Deere's chairman and CEO.

John Deere equipment is also involved in the recovery efforts. The company's manufacturing operations and dealers donated and delivered Gator utility vehicles, skid steer loaders, tractors and construction equipment for use at the sites where the hijacked jets crashed.

The National Golf Course Owners Association also responded with a relief effort initiative, On Course America — Golf Unites for Disaster Relief. Participating U.S. golf courses across the United States donated proceeds from rounds of golf played during Oct. 19 to 21 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

NGCOA developed the program in response to the desire of its membership to assist the relief efforts in some way. "The NGCOA was overwhelmed by the response from our members to this tragic event," said Mike Hughes, NGCOA executive director.

Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER

Maintained by the University of California at Irvine, the site operates from the school's science library. Believe me, it shows. It has more calculators than the freshman class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

You want to know the pH of your water? No problem. The amount of water your soil can hold? It's here. Want to find out how much erosion you can expect around your pond banks after a particularly bad storm? There's a calculator to help you. The amount of information this site provides you is unbelievable.

Since this issue of Golfdom focuses on irrigation, I focused my attention on the site's water calculators. It allows you to calculate the pipe size you'll need for your irrigation system (a useful calculation, whether you're installing a new one or renovating an old one), evapotranspiration rates and other water-related questions.

The calculator that held my attention the longest was the Penman calculator for water use by grass. You enter elements like the amount of sunshine, air temperature, humidity and windspeed into the appropriate fields. (It also gives you options. For example, if you don't know the amount of sunshine on a given day, you can enter the time of year instead.) Then you hit the "Calculate" button. In an instant, the site tells you how many inches of water the grass will use on that day under the weather conditions you entered. It's quick, easy to navigate and will help you use your irrigation system more efficiently.

I realize that no scientific equation will ever adequately capture the nuances of golf course management, but www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators1.html#AGRI-WATER gives you tools that will help you do your job more effectively.

Golfdom's managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr. compiles Scanning the Web and needs a calculator to add one plus one. You can reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.