Simplot disputes L-93 ruling

J.R. Simplot is disputing the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s decision to abandon the Plant Variety Protection application of Loft L-93 bentgrass, marketed by the company’s Jacklin Seed division.

The ruling, handed down by USDA’s Plant Variety Protection office, means the cultivar has no proprietary owner and that generic versions of L-93 could be sold.

J.R. Simplot purchased the seed at a bankruptcy auction after the demise of AgroBioTech in 2000, but Simplot didn’t obtain a new PVP, which is required when a variety changes hands.

“Simplot is aggressively pursuing all available avenues to restore the PVP application for L-93,” the company announced in a media advisory. “Ultimately, Simplot believes the PVP office will reconsider its decision and reinstate the application.”

NGP, AGC announce merger conditions

National Golf Properties and American Golf Corp., both based in Santa Monica, Calif., have announced conditions of their merger, which they reported in February. Under the merger, both companies would become subsidiaries of a new holding company that would be owned by current National Golf shareholders.

The new company would also not be a real-estate investment trust as National Golf was previously. The company plans a new name upon completion of the merger, which is expected late this summer.

Ruling doesn’t affect golf industry

While the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced it wants to ban...