

Vandals Cause Extensive Damage to Turf Seed Research Facility

By Bryan Denson of *The Oregonian*

An underground group calling itself the Anarchist Golfing Association claimed responsibility for sabotaging experimental grasses at a grass research company near Canby, Oregon, marking the first time that biotech vandals have struck in Oregon. The group claimed in an anonymous e-mail to *The Oregonian* that it broke into two greenhouses owned by Pure-Seed Testing, overturning and stomping on experimental grass plots, scattering identification tags and spray-painting such slogans as "Nature Bites Back."

Biotech saboteurs have struck experimental trees and food crops more than 20 times in North America since last July, mostly in California, including the arson of the landmark Agriculture Hall at Michigan State University. They have set back research by universities and high-tech agriculture companies in an effort to draw attention to genetic engineering; a science they say is potentially harmful to the planet.

The saboteurs targeted Pure-Seed partly because the company is experimenting with a grass used on putting greens – creeping bentgrass – that has been genetically modified to resist the herbicide Glyphosate, according to the Anarchist Golfing Association's communiqué. "The biotech industry usually hides behind the racist aura of 'feeding the Third World,' but as you can see, it is quite obvious that these crops are grown for profit and the pleasure of the rich and have no social value," the group wrote. "Grass, like industrial culture, is invasive and permeates every aspect of our lives," the note continued. "While the golf trade journals claim that 'golf courses provide suitable habitat for wildlife,' we see them as a destroyer of all things wild."

Pure-Seed president Bill L. Rose condemned the vandalism. Rose said his company would have to swallow the damages because insurance only covered seed and seed stock, not experimental plants. The sabotage destroyed five to ten

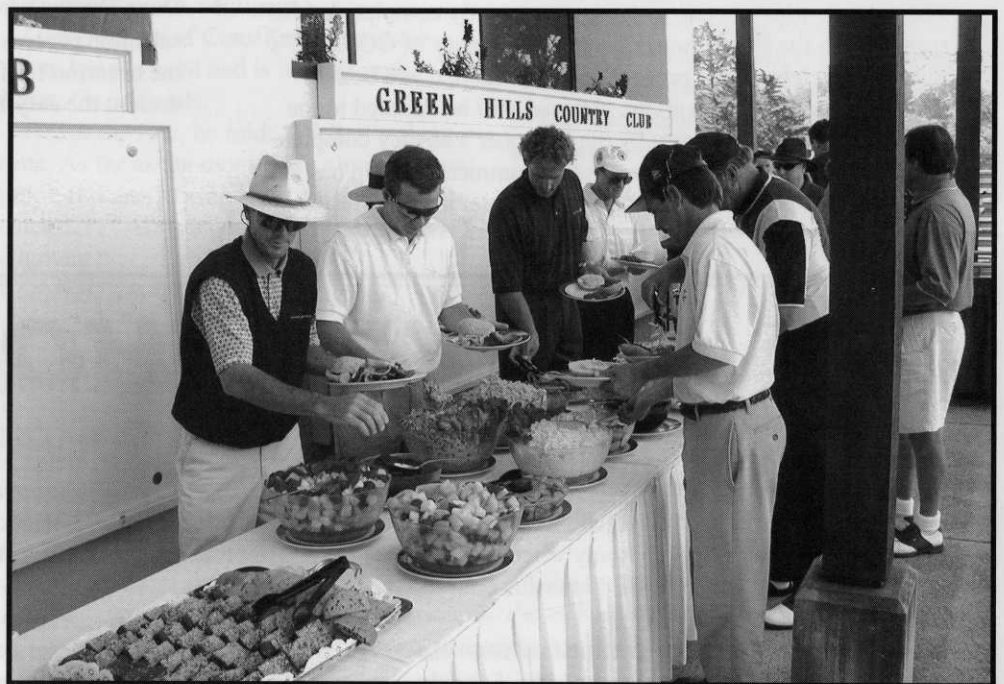
years of work. "Put a value on that one," Rose said.

According to Crystal Fricker, director of research, they totally destroyed the genetically modified grass experiment and dumped and scattered 200 pots of ornamental grasses collected from around the world. "I think it's ironic they killed so many plants that are naturally bred to be so environmentally friendly," Fricker said. "Our whole goal is to develop varieties that require less input (of pesticides and other chemicals) and that can better serve people around the world."/



The Supt/Pro Trophy

Below - The staff at Green Hill put on quite a spread



The Superintendent/Pro Tournament at Green Hills Country Club

Approximately 60 players participated in the Supt/Pro event at Green Hills. The weather couldn't have been better and Walt Barret had the golf course in flawless condition. A big thanks go out to Walt and the entire staff at Green Hills.

Tournament Results - Superintendent/Pro Best Ball Net

1st Place	Gary Skolnik/Byron Cone Fountaingrove Resort 60*
2nd Place	Danny Moak/Eric Wasinger Diablo Grande 60

*Won scorecard playoff