FREEBIE......Elanco Products Co. is giving away sprayers to users of Surflan herbicide. End users of Surflan can receive either a Solo backpack sprayer or a Chem-Lawn spray gun free with the purchase of 50 gallons of Surflan 4AS. The Solo backpack sprayer comes equipped with a pressure regulator and two-nozzle spray boom. The Chem-Lawn spray gun is available with a choice of nozzles, which provide either four to five gallons per minute or two to three gallons per minute. Also available is a Solo Hanjet compression sprayer.

ANOTHER FREEBIE......Our friends in New Jersey tell us that a condensed version of the Economic Survey of the New Jersey turfgrass industry is available at no cost. The leaflet is available upon request from the Publications Office at Cook College (Rutgers University).

BERMUDAGRASS VS. ZOYSIAGRASS......According to Dr. Jack Murray, research agronomist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md., zoysiagrass stacks up pretty well in a comparison with bermudagrass. Here’s what he says: in shade tolerance, zoysia is superior; in wear tolerance, zoysia is superior; in rate of spread, bermuda is superior; in recovery, bermuda is superior; in ease of establishment, bermuda is superior; in cold tolerance, zoysia is superior; and in fall and spring color, zoysia is superior. A couple of other points Dr. Murray makes about zoysiagrass: its major problems are difficulties in establishment and its long winter dormancy period. He says northern transition zone areas provide the best climate for zoysiagrass.

SPRING WATER SPRAYING......Spring is just around the corner so it might be time for some of you in the transition zone (and maybe even some northern areas) to start thinking about aquatic weed control. Dr. Joe Downs, a technical specialist with Monsanto Agricultural Products Co., says there are several things you should keep in mind when using chemicals to control water weeds: 1) applications made in moving water must be made while traveling upstream to prevent concentration buildup; 2) do not apply within .5 mile upstream of a potable water intake; 3) do not apply in estuaries; and 4) do not apply on rice levees when flood water is present. Application of chemicals in water is an exact science. Exercise prudence while applying.

NO MORE POA......Scott Niven, property manager at The Stanwich Club, Stanwich, Conn., used to water his poa annua fairways up to four times a day to keep them cool and green. That’s when he decided to make the switch to bentgrass. But Niven said he couldn’t have done it without Cutless. “Can’t fertilize and get the dark green that a Cutless application will give,” Niven said. Using Cutless not only gave him improved color and vitality of the perennial grasses, but also reduced the mowing requirements and grass clippings (by almost 50 percent) over eight to 10 weeks. The Cutless reduced thatch and eliminated various weeds. Primarily, it inhibited the poa annua, allowing the bentgrass to grow in.

PEOPLE Names in the news

Marshall Bossard, groundskeeper at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, has retired after a 48-year career. Bossard is the last of the famous Bossard family that for many years made the baseball field the best in the American League, following father Emil and brother Harold.

Charles R. Johnson, president of California Landscape, Canoga Park, Calif., has been installed as new president of the California Landscape & Irrigation Council. He succeeds Mickey Strauss of American Landscape, Canoga Park, Calif. Other officers are Klaus W. Ahlers, Art Torres, John Carlson, William N. Cohen and Julie Kitch.

Ahmed Daoud Ali has been added to the cooperative extension office of the University of California, Riverside. Ali has a Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.

John Betts has been named golf course superintendent for the Port Royal Golf Clubs, Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Island, S.C. The graduate of the University of Michigan moves up from assistant superintendent.

New officers in the North Central Weed Control Conference are Calvin G. Mesersmith of North Dakota State University, R. Gordon Harvey of the University of Wisconsin, Loyd M. Wax of the USDA, Earl W. Chamberlain of Ciba-Geigy, Jerry D. Doll of the University of Wisconsin; Edward W. Stoller, of the USDA, John W. Nalewaja and Alan Dexter of North Dakota State, Ellery L. Knake of the University of Illinois, and Robert Schmidt.

Aquatrols Corp. has announced a personnel change. Andy Moore has been promoted to national sales manager for Aqua-Gro and Foliacote.

Three dealers were added to Elanco’s network: Nick Clifford of Clifford Enterprises, St. Louis; Benn Heskett and Tim King of B.A. Heskett, Worthington, Ohio; and Ed Swallow of Portland, Ore.

Bill Riden has been named Chipco turf and ornamental product sales specialist, covering eastern Pennsylvania and New York State. He has previously worked for Mobay, W.A. Cleary and O.M. Scott & Son.