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NEWS BRIEFS

FROM THE HILL... Congress recently amended the Small Business Act. The Small Business Administration now has the authority to grant money to local governments for the purpose of contracting with small businesses to plant trees on land owned or controlled by the state or local governments. To apply for a grant, call (202) 643-6605.

THE SUBJECT WAS BENTGRASS... at the recent Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in Milwaukee. Dr. Joe Duich, speaking on bentgrass research in Pennsylvania, advised seed buyers to make careful note of seed lot numbers, and retain all records, "to insure they get what they pay for." Kevin Dushane, superintendent at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club in Union Lake, Mich., said that, when it comes to bentgrass fairways, "players—principally lower handicap players—would like to have a fairway lie where the ball sits up on the turf. Mowing at 1/2-inch with a good stand of bentgrass can deliver that playing condition."

MAKING PLANS... The Associated Landscape Contractors of America's recent long range plan, "Visions '95," details numerous five-year goals. "By 1995," the report reads, "(ALCA) will be viewed as a spokesperson for the industry." Goals:
- to be strongly influential in curriculum development at institutions of higher learning,
- to be a clearinghouse for legislative and environmental updates,
- to provide guidance and information regarding green industry questions,
- to be a "force for research and development."

HORSE TURF... Southern Turf Nurseries of Norcross, Ga., has signed an agreement with Fibresand Ltd. of Mansfield, England, to be the first American company to sell and install the British firm's formulated surface for equestrian sports. Fibresand is described as a clean, free draining silica sand, reinforced with synthetic fibers. According to Southern Turf, the formula provides a forgiving yet consistent surface when under load from horses' hooves, and can be installed indoors or outdoors.

AKA... Mycogen Corp. has changed the name and logo for several of the products it's licensed from Safer Inc. Safer Insecticide Concentrate is now M-Pede insecticide, and Moss & Algae Killer now carries the name DeMoss moss and algaicide. SharpShooter herbicide retains its name. All products display the Mycogen "sunburst" logo.