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PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT TRAINEE. Eastern region of expanding lawn care company seeking individuals to join their production management team. If you have related degree in turf grass and/or experience in lawn care, we have a fast track training program to place you on our management team. Send resume and salary requirements. All replies will be kept confidential. Write WTT Box 337. 

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McVeigh fills ISI spot vacated by Pepin

In our Green Industry News section in October we reported a move by Dr. Gerry Pepin from International Seeds Inc., Hubbard, OR, to Pickseed West, Inc., Tangent, OR, left the research director position vacant at ISI. At the time we wrote the story we were unaware that Dr. Kevin McVeigh, who worked with Pepin at ISI, had been promoted to director of research.

ISI President J.L. Carnes says Pepin does not own turf seed patents for varieties marketed by ISI.

The Editor

Seed supply rumors need factual support

Congratulations are due you for bringing the seed harvest losses to the attention of buyers of the product, such as myself.

The problem had been rumored about the industry in this area for the past couple of months, but no facts were known except that seed (all seed) was going to be difficult to purchase in 1984. At that point, I began trying to buy my 1984 supply of certified Green Tag Penncross for the overseeding of my greens. To date, I have not been successful, yet, your article states "Bentgrasses were not hurt".

I wonder: 1) has the bentgrass picture changed since the printing of your article? 2) Is the bentgrass shortage in this area only? 3) Are the honest crop failures affecting all seed crops?

John O'Connell
Certified Golf Course Superintendent
Blue Rock Golf Course
South Yarmouth, Mass.

I can tell you what I saw with my own eyes while in Oregon in August. At that time, bentgrass had not yet been cut and swathed to dry. It looked fine and the seed growers didn't voice concern. The damage to fine fescues and ryegrass was very evident. Weeks of rain during harvest caused losses of 25 percent and more.

A few weeks after we left rain did hit the bentgrass in the field and caused severe losses. The delay between writing a magazine and printing it has caused our information gap. The bentgrass shortage is real. Your seed supplier's hands are tied. Sorry for the incorrect information on bentgrasses. Next year we'll hold publication of the report until we know the facts on bentgrass.

The Editor.
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Circle No. 167 on Reader Inquiry Card
EPA oversteps bounds claiming public domain of safety data

The rights of U.S. chemical manufacturers are being abused by the Environmental Protection Agency’s interpretation of a poorly-constructed section of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act on data compensation.

Chemical companies have been, for the most part, good sports playing by a set of frequently-changed rules to get their products registered and on the market. Their lawyers, like quarterbacks, are forced to anticipate what obstacles EPA will put in their path during the registration process.

The latest word from EPA, regarding Monsanto’s Supreme Court case against EPA and Stauffer Chemical Company, oversteps the government’s authority over a corporation’s property. The property in question is health and safety data, generated at great expense by chemical companies to meet registration requirements.

EPA is telling the Supreme Court this data, once submitted, becomes the property of EPA in exchange for the right of registration. The law provides an arbitration and compensation procedure under the direction of an EPA arbitrator. Only an EPA law judge can overrule the arbitrator’s decision. In other words, once submitted, the final word on the value of data rests with EPA, not the chemical company who paid for it.

Monsanto can claim it has a price disadvantage. Other companies using Monsanto’s data can charge less since they do not incur the cost of research to produce the data.

Stauffer, and other companies using ‘me-too’ data, are not guilty. They have been playing the game by EPA’s rules.

If a loophole exists, they try it, possibly saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. EPA allowed a big loophole which completely overlooked antitrust implications of the data they were handling.

How EPA ever thought chemical companies would allow expensive ‘trade secret’ data to be public property is beyond common sense. It shows a complete lack of understanding of business.

Saying the data is public domain because it is a requirement for pesticide registration does not adequately protect chemical companies and their stockholders. Saying safety data is needed in case of emergency is valid, however, and I doubt if any chemical company would argue.

Use of this confidential data should be limited to making a company-by-company determination of benefits versus risk, and to help in cases of emergency.

Negotiating the value of the data between companies should not be an EPA function. It should be up to a company wanting to produce a ‘me-too’ product to negotiate a price with the original registrant of the data. That is fair and that is business.

by Bruce F. Shank, executive editor

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