

## It's time to act—now!

HAZELTON, Pa.—PLCAA president Neal DeAngelo of Lawn Specialties expects the Supreme Court's ruling to have "immediate impact" as local municipalities resurrect past, failed initiatives. An example is Pennsylvania's Packer Township, which tried to initiate a pesticide ban 18 months ago.

Although DeAngelo expects "some activity" in the way of ban initiatives, he does not believe pesticide bans will ever catch on.

DeAngelo insists that industry must take "immediate action," preferably by joint efforts between the PLCAA and state lawn care associations.

"If we can nip a lot of these (proposed laws) in the bud, and stop them from ever beginning in the



Neal DeAngelo

first place," says DeAngelo. "I think we'll do our industry a great service."

DeAngelo says associations need financial support and time commitments to relay information, "whether it's just brochures, whether it's video tape programs, something that they can take to their local garden clubs and rotary clubs and borough officials to help educate them." —T.M. □

### PESTICIDES

## Pro golfer questions source of health woes: could it be pesticides?

An Oregon professional golfer has been told his health problems may be the result of pesticide ingestion from the course. However, questions remain about the mysterious case which has set off some alarms in the golf and green industries.

Golfer Peter Jacobsen has said his symptoms of dizziness, listlessness and fatigue may not be a sinus condition, but rather linked to the practice of putting golf tees into his mouth after they'd been used on the turf surface.

Jacobsen's case figured centrally in a mid-June (Salem, Ore.) editorial which condemns chemical use in many lawn care operations, terming his case a "living example of a problem that few realize and even fewer want to acknowledge: the danger of a perfect lawn."

According to Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association president Dick Malpass, Jacobsen learned from a homeopathic doctor that some phosphorus E has settled in his liver. But Malpass says he has checked with Oregon State University officials who have told him that they'd not heard of the substance.

"We're just keeping our fingers crossed, waiting to see how this will be resolved," said Malpass in mid-June. "We've put out feelers. The main thing now is to find out if there is just such a chemical."

Therein lies the mystery.

Oregon State University toxicologist Terry Miller, contacted by Malpass, says he has never heard of phosphorus E.

"I can't find it anywhere,"

to page 12

## NEWS BRIEFS

**RETIREMENT INVESTMENTS...**Alabama has come up with a unique idea for developing new high-quality public golf courses: let state employees invest retirement funds. At least 12 championship-caliber courses are now planned. "Golf courses are a sound investment, so we've taken a leadership role in their development and construction," says Dr. David Bronner, CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama.

**ON TO DALLAS...**The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has moved its 1994 conference and show from Houston to Dallas. The show, Jan. 31 to Feb. 7 three years hence, was moved because it outgrew Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.

**A UNIQUE IDEA...**The Grounds Management Association of Wisconsin added a unique public relations tool this year: sponsorship of a poster contest titled "Benefits of Turf." The competition was open to any sixth- through eighth-grader in the state, and 500 posters were received. Winners at each level received \$200 savings bonds, and the grand prize winner received an all-expense paid family trip to a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game, hosted by Brewers grounds manager Gary Vandenberg.

**A NATIONAL CELEBRITY...**Bill Thornton, president of Thornton Environmental Industries, Maineville, Ohio, has been named to the board of directors of the National Federation of Independent Business. The NFIB is the nation's largest small-business advocacy organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1946 by Thornton's father, the company employs more than 150 people during the peak landscaping season.

**AWARD-WINNERS...**Nichols Lawn Service of Wichita, Kan. and the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. of Stamford, Conn. were recently winners of prestigious awards. Nichols was named 1991 Prime Contractor of the Year for four states by the Small Business Administration. President Larry Nichols was honored two months ago in Washington, D.C. Bartlett was one of four corporate recipients of the Green Star award presented by the Environmental Action Coalition of New York, N.Y. President Robert A. Bartlett Jr. accepted the award for the company's urban and suburban tree preservation programs.

**'OVER THERE'...**George Toma of Kansas City, turf consultant to the NFL, has been helping prepare playing surfaces in Japan and Germany this summer. Japan was to host an exhibition game between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 4. Kansas City was to play the Los Angeles Rams there on Aug. 11. When Toma visited Tokyo's MacArthur Park, he was greeted by Tokyo Parks Department and other officials.

LM



**GOLFER** from page 11  
but that doesn't necessarily mean it doesn't exist," says Miller.

He says he checked with the distributor of an insecticide believed to be the problem, as well as with the original supplier, but neither source had heard of the compound. Neither had a turf profes-

sor at the university.

The June 13 "Statesman-Journal" editorial, entitled "Oregon golfer an example...Perfect lawn can make you ill," says the Jacobsen case exhibits "what problems youngsters might have with toys, balls and other objects that have rolled about in their own yards." □

## PRODUCTS

# EPA registers new pre-, post-emergent

ST. LOUIS—Dimension herbicide, manufactured by Monsanto, received EPA registration in June.

Dimension controls crabgrass, goosegrass, fox-tail, spurge, oxalis and other weeds.

Product manager Jim Budzynski says it may be used for pre- and post-emergence weed control.

The active ingredient in Dimension, dithiopyr, is environmentally desirable in part because of low use

rates, the company says.

Budzynski says Dimension has provided longer crabgrass control than other pre-emergence herbicides, and does not interfere with fall overseeding.

Dimension can be applied over a wide variety of turfgrasses without damage to foliage or root systems, Monsanto says. The herbicide will also not injure ornamentals near treatment areas, according to the company. □

## TURFSEED

# New burning fees won't hurt buyers

TANGENT, Ore.—New field burning fees charged to seed harvesters will apparently have little immediate effect on seed prices.

"I don't think you'll see dramatic changes in prices," says Dave Nelson of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission, which negotiated the fee system with state legislators.

"The cost to farmers will probably go up by as much as \$35 an acre," says Nelson. "On a 1000-pound yield, that's going to be 3-1/2 cents a pound."

Jim Enyart of Turf Seed, Inc., is more cautious. He says it's too early to say which way prices will go. But he sees no drastic change in prices this year.

"Until we get some viable alternatives (to burning), it's hard to say. Everybody's talking like

it's going to drive the price up, but I'd reserve judgement until we have to start reducing the burning."

This year under the new fee schedule, 180,000 acres may be burned and 75,000 acres may be propane flamed, each at a cost of \$8 an acre. Burnable acreage will decrease to 40,000 by 2001 when an additional 75,000 acres may be propane flamed, provided particulate matter discharge does not go beyond a proscribed minimum.

"There will be more stability over the long run, but not much effect on prices in the short run," says Steve Tubbs of Turf Merchants, Inc.

Tubbs says the burn legislation might ultimately hurt bluegrass yields, because burning is especially beneficial to bluegrass. □

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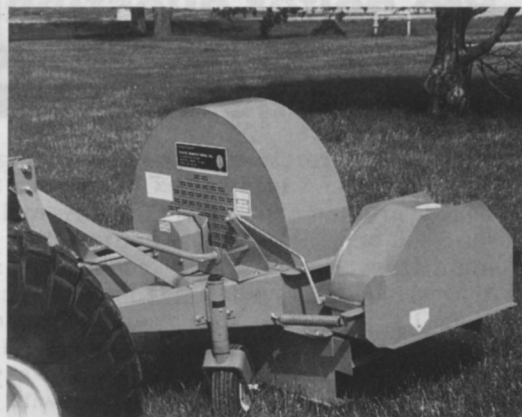
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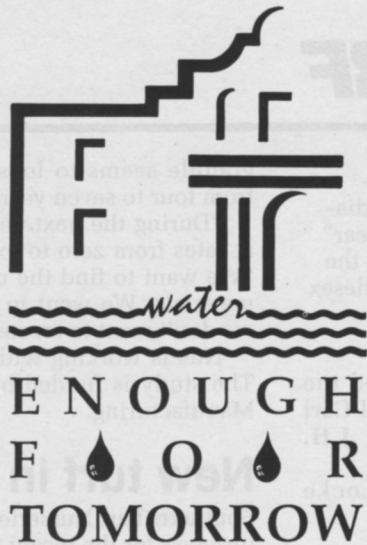


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# ATHLETIC TURF

## Paying dividends

The high school coach whose student-built ball diamond was named Beam Clay "Diamond of the Year" now has a new 30-inch reel mower for grooming the infield turf. It was delivered as a gift to the Middlesex County Vocational-Technical School in East Brunswick, N.J. by Locke Mowers Inc.

Locke vice president **Ian Burden** presented the mower to Coach **Ray Cipperly**, school principal **Carl J. Klumb** and school superintendent **Dr. J.H. Zanzalari**.

Coach Cipperly also has an 87-inch Locke Professional mower.

## Bounce per pound

**Dr. Jeff Nus** of Kansas State University is studying a way to add "mini-shock absorbers" to the rootzones of practice football and soccer fields that may otherwise become compacted.

Nus has a granulated polymer that resembles triple-strength gelatin when water is added to it. After one year of applying the polymer to Manhattan, Kansas's Frank Anneberg Sports Complex fields via aeration, soil compaction has been reduced.

The polyacrylamide granules, each about the size of a BB, can absorb from 50 to 1,000 times their weight in water. When added to turf, the expanding

granule seems to loosen the soil. They stay active from four to seven years.

"During the next year, we'll be adding acrylamide at rates from zero to extremely high rates," Nus says. "We want to find the upper limit for the use of these materials. We want to soften playing field some, but we don't want to create a marsh, either."

Nus is working with graduate student **Mike Boaz**. The study is funded by a \$20,000 grant from Olathe Manufacturing.

## New turf in Atlanta

Southern Turf Nurseries was chosen to provide new turfgrass for the recent field renovation of the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. The renovation was undertaken to rectify problems caused by non-sports events.

Tifway 419, overseeded with Laser *Poa trivialis* was chosen by Southern's turf consultant **Turner Gibson** and his team of division manager **Steve Mathis** and project manager **Steve Quinn**.

The new field was changed from a baseball/football combination field with a crown to a traditional baseball configuration, which is a level grade.

**Ed Mangan**, new field manager for the Atlanta Braves who most recently was field manager for the Kansas City Royals' spring training facility in Florida, is now in charge of maintenance. **LM**



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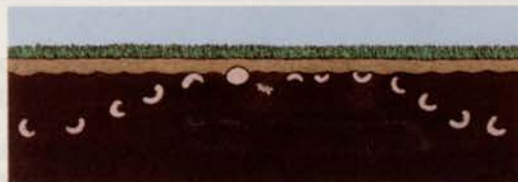


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# INFO-CENTER

**CRABGRASS CONTROL...**A 10-minute video on strategies for controlling crabgrass with Acclaim 1EC herbicide is available from Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet free to lawn care operators. To receive a copy, write to: Crabgrass Control Strategies, 3343 Peachtree Rd., Suite 1220, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30326.

**ON THE ENVIRONMENT...**Golf superintendents who have been frustrated by negative reports about golf courses now have "Links with Nature," a 14-minute video to help respond to misconceptions about golf course management. Price is \$20 for GCSAA members and \$30 for non-members. To order, call (913) 832-4480.

**WESTERN WEEDS...**More than 300 weeds found in 12 western states have been identified in a new book available through the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service. "Weeds of the West" is directed at anyone with weed problems. Copies are \$19.50 each. To order, phone Diane Lopez at (505) 646-5280.

**PESTICIDE DIRECTORY...**Thomson Publications has released its newly-revised "1991 Pesticide Directory." Cost is \$75 plus tax. For ordering information, write P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791 or phone (209) 435-2163. Thomson's fax number is (209) 435-8319.

**ON MOWER SAFETY...**A 20-minute video on commercial mower safety and preventive maintenance is available for \$15 (plus sales tax in Illinois and Iowa). To order, phone (800) 544-2122 or write to: Responsible Front Mower Operation (DS0457), John Deere & Co., Distribution Service Center, Safety Films Dept., 1400-13th St., East Moline, IL 61244. Credit card and money orders are accepted.

**COST ESTIMATING...**The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service has a revised 3.2 version of Hort Management computer cost estimator for landscape managers. It operates on SuperCalc 4 or SuperCalc 5 software which must be purchased through private vendors. The program can be purchased by sending \$10 to: Extension Ag Economics Dept., Hort Management Software, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

**A CHEMICAL REFERENCE...**"Turf & Ornamental Chemicals Reference" is available through the Professional Lawn Care Association of America for September shipment. Cost is \$95 for approximately 1200 pages of information. Send your check payable to the PLCAA to: Turf & Ornamental Chemicals Reference, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112. **LM**

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## LEGISLATION

### Local pesticide regs tough to enforce, don't make sense

MAYFIELD VILLAGE, Ohio—Enforcement of a pre-notification law here has authorities, LCOs and homeowners confused.

"The ordinance...is really quite unenforceable," says Phil Fogarty, president of the Ohio Lawn Care Association and Crowley Lawn Service, Inc. in Cleveland. The company

operates in the village.

"I don't know how we're going to police it," says Gus Amendola, Mayfield's building commissioner charged with enforcing a 1987 pre-notification law. That law requires that all abutting property owners be given 24 hours notice before pesticide applications by

either professionals or homeowners.

According to law director, Fred P. Ramos, applicators will be notified of the law: "We want to be fair. We don't want to be citing people tomorrow, says Ramos."

Amendola says he was told to start enforcement immediately.

"I'm a little skeptical," says Amendola, "because the 24-hour notice will be difficult." He expects notices to be placed in

mailboxes. "Someone could put the notice in the mailbox at 2 o'clock in the morning and then come back and spray at 8 a.m. How do I know what time they (put the notice in the mailbox.?)"

Citizens who work during the day are another concern. "People will not get their mail until they come home," Amendola points out.

Also, it's against federal law to place non-mailed items in mailboxes.

Fogarty is trying to come up with a sensible ordinance that can be used in Mayfield and surrounding communities. "I'm attempting to get these cities to sit down with the industry and environmental people and work something out," he says. Fogarty admits that he has a tough job when it comes to seeking suitable pesticide ordinances. The co-host of a gardening radio show, Fogarty is bringing 2,4-D developer, Wendell Mullison, to town. The plan was to have Mullison meet with local officials, yet one mayor up for reelection this fall told Fogarty that he wouldn't be seen in public with Mullison.

Fogarty still hopes a solution can be negotiated. "I'm trying to get something accomplished, not draw battlelines," he says.

—Jim Guyette □

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## EVENTS

### AUGUST

**13: Associated Green Industries of Northeastern Ohio summer field day, Great Lakes Evergreens, Madison, Ohio. Contact: AGI, (216) 572-2784.**

**15: The Wisconsin Nurserymen's Association, summer field day and trade show, Lied's Nursery Farms, Sussex, Wisc. Contact: (414) 246-7445.**

**21: Michigan Nursery and Landscape Assoc., field day, The Cottage Gardens, Inc., Lansing, Mich. Contact: MNLA, 819**

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