

AUGUSTIN JOINS LESCO

Dr. Bruce Augustin, associate professor at the University of Florida since 1980, has joined LESCO, Inc., Rocky River, OH, as director of technical support.

Augustin, the former turf extension and water specialist at UF, will coordinate technical training of LESCO employees, work with university researchers on new LESCO products and trials. Augustin will also have a major role in the educational seminars presented by LESCO.

Augustin received his bachelor's degree in plant science from the University of Delaware. He received his master's degree in turfgrass seed production from the University of Idaho and his Ph.D. in turfgrass physiology from the Ohio State University.

A member of the American Society of Agronomy and the American Society for Horticulture Sciences, Augustin includes woodworking and fishing among his hobbies.

Augustin, his wife Maria, and their daughter, Alicia, will be moving to the Cleveland area. ■



LESCO EQUIPMENT UPDATE

LESCO salesmen are now taking orders for the new LESCO greensmower, available now for field tests and scheduled for full production in 1986.

The LESCO GREENSMOWER is designed for easy use and durability. The mower has hydraulic power steering for easier maneuvering with no cables, independent reel controls for multiple mowing patterns, reversible hydraulics to allow backlapping of individual units while operator remains on machine.

Center post steering is included on the LESCO GREENSMOWER for added safety and for ease in climbing on and off either side of the machine. Rocker foot pedals allow for raising and lowering of cutting units and automatic stopping and starting of reels.

The LESCO GREENSMOWER has an 18 horsepower, twin-cylinder, Kohler Magnum engine for added power and long life. The greensmower is designed for easy ser-

ving. There is access to valve spools without removing valve bank. The pump is designed for easy removal through use of "flex" coupling. Cutting units may be removed by pulling two pins plus a quick disconnect of motors with two bolts and splined shaft. The LESCO GREENSMOWER also has jacking pads on the frame for easier repairs. ■



DIAZINON ON THE WAY OUT

About four months ago the Environmental Protection Agency informed us of their concern about alleged unreasonable adverse effects of diazinon on birds (particularly waterfowl) when used on golf courses and sod farms and was considering a Special Review of those uses of the product. (A Special Review is initiated when the EPA feels a product poses a substantial question of risk to the health and safety of humans or the environment.)

On January 6, 1986, the Agency announced in a press release that it will conduct a Special Review of the uses of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms. At the same time, it *proposed cancellation* of all uses of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms. Usually, the Agency first conducts the Special Review and then determines what regulatory action, if any, should be proposed.

The Agency said in the announcement that it has received reports of approximately 60 bird kills (primarily of wild geese) in 18 states in which diazinon was either confirmed or strongly implicated as the primary cause. The Agency noted that in the large majority of cases it was not known if label directions were followed. Also, the announcement said available data indicate that diazinon does not pose a significant risk to humans or other species of wildlife.

We believe revisions in application directions would assure the safe use of diazinon without unreasonable adverse effects on birds. While in December the EPA approved label revisions we proposed to reduce potential hazards to birds, the Agency apparently has concluded that those revisions are not sufficient to mitigate the problem and issued the proposed cancellation.

Our research people and outside experts retained by CIBA-GEIGY are evaluating the data on which the EPA apparently based its proposed regulatory actions. They also are preparing a presentation of our own extensive data on diazinon to be made to the EPA's Scientific Advisory Panel. That presentation is scheduled for the Panel's April meeting.