

work together to address the two main EPA objections to previous applications (1) No evidence of a significant market disruption if golf doesn't have MeBr and (2) the technical feasibility of some alternatives to MeBr. A task group will be formed to coordinate efforts to submit a more compelling application.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TO BEGIN THIS SPRING

Editor's note: *Given the growing trend for counties and municipalities to consider a patchwork of individual ordinances to deal with perceived problems with fertilizers and pesticides, it behooves every golf course to participate in the GCSAA's series of baseline data surveys to solidify and document the true scope and nature of what we do on golf courses. Make it a point to go out of your way to support this data collection effort. It's only your job and golf course at stake.*

Despite a growing database available to aid the golf industry in making

decisions, GCSAA is aiming to fill a significant void by embarking on a project this spring that will evaluate golf course environmental performance.

This multi-year project, the Golf Course Environmental Profile, is designed to collect information that will ultimately allow golf course superintendents and others to become better managers, help facilities operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services. Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices. The project is being funded by the Environmental Institute for Golf, thanks in large part to a grant from the Toro Foundation.

"Organizations such as the USGA Green Section, GCSAA, universities and private industry have funded and administered research that has been invaluable for the game," said outgoing GCSAA President Timothy O'Neill,

CGCS. "We know that golf courses are compatible with the environment, but we also know that there are gaps in the data, especially in the collection of aggregate golf course information. We believe the data will be helpful on many fronts."

The most glaring absence comes in collective golf course performance data. Existing data is limited and not complete, uniform or centralized. GCSAA officials contend that this multi-year initiative will not only benefit superintendents and golf facilities, but communities and golfers as well.

Blue Tag Rebate Program Nets Donation to FGCSA

The PGA National Golf Club turned in their blue seed tags from their 2005 seed purchases from Turf-Seed,

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...Thousands of dollars could have been dispersed to the FGCSA if the courses were better informed of this program.

Inc. earning a \$788 rebate check for the FGCSA Research Fund. Unfortunately that was the only club in the state to take advantage of the Blue Tag program last year.

Greg Freyermuth of Turf-Seed said, "We feel that there were several thousands of dollars that could have been dispersed to the FGCSA if the courses were better informed of this program."

The program was advertised in the FGCSA Green Sheet last fall and Freyermuth made a presentation to the FGCSA at the spring board meeting in Naples last year. Distributors are also aware of the program and should be bringing it to the attention of the golf-course customers.

Turf-Seed and Tee-2-Green pledge to contribute 50 cents for every Turf-Seed variety or mixture blue tag and/or \$1 for every Tee-2-Green PennPals variety or mixture blue tag turned in.

The blue tags are sewn on the bag to signify that each seed is certified. The tags must be removed from the bag and sent to Turf-Seed, Inc. with the name and location of the golf course. These funds are distributed to the state chapter to be used for research endowments and educational advancements.

"I would like to look into some way we could promote this program more vigorously," says Freyermuth. It has been in place for 10 years now.

FGCSA President Craig Weyandt agreed that we must come up with a way to create more awareness of this program, which is an easy way to benefit the industry.

If you have any questions about the program, contact Greg at 407-257-7325 or email at greg@turf-seed.com.



Terminator Meets Caddy Shack

New propane-oxygen injection systems like the Rodenator Pro units shown here have become very popular for controlling moles and other rodents on golf courses around the country. Oxygen mixed with propane is heavier than air and sinks into the rodents' tunnels and dens. When it's ignited it produces an expanding force traveling at 5,000 feet per second. The concussion collapses the tunnel network and produces first-pass kill rates up to 90 percent. The exterminator then follows up with trapping to get the surviving stragglers.

Plants of the Year

The first in the Plants of the Year series for 2006. The plants selected for this program have been found to be good performers in the Florida environment and require less maintenance and inputs. Here are two specimens for your consideration. Go to www.fngla.org for more information and suppliers who carry these plants.



Common name: African Blue Basil
Botanical name: *Ocimum kilimandscharicum X O. basilicum purpurascens*
Hardiness: Zones 8-10
Mature height and spread: 24-36 in.
Classification: annual, herb
Landscape use: Herb garden or as a fragrant ornamental
Characteristics: Developed by crossing camphor basil (*O. kilimandscharicum*) with purple basil (*O. basilicum purpurascens*), this herb prefers full sun and moist soil with erect purple blooms with a soft extruding flower. Its fragrant leaves can be used for culinary purposes.



Common name: Phalaenopsis Kaleidoscope
Botanical name: *Phalaenopsis* Baldan's Kaleidoscope 'Golden Treasure'
Hardiness: Zones 10-11
Mature height and spread: 15 in. and up
Classification: Tropical foliage
Landscape use: Accent plant for baskets, typically used indoors
Characteristics: Noted for its stunning coloring and abundant blooming, the flowers have red lips, reddish purple striping and a pale yellow background that starts as strong yellow and lightens as the bloom matures. This *Phalaenopsis* produces multiple flower spikes as it matures.