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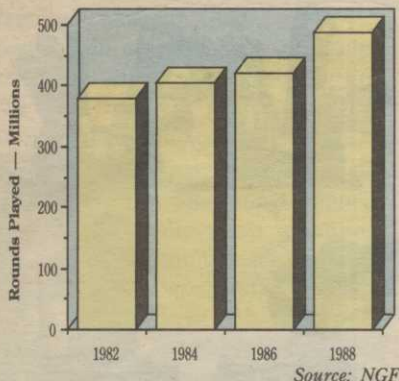
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Seed industry wins time

Search heats up for long-term solution to controlling disease

BY MARK LESLIE

The Oregon seed industry has won a reprieve from frightening legislation to ban field-burning, and researchers have recharged efforts to find long-term answers to the issue.

"It's status quo for 1989," said Dr. William C. Young, Extension agronomist at Oregon State University.

The Oregon House voted 34-26 against a bill that would reduce the number of seed-producing acreage that could be burned. Field-burning is the basic means the state's

800 seed growers use to purge their fields of weeds and disease and prepare the land for the next crop.

The case is crucial to the nation's golf courses because Oregon's 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass, Chewings and creeping red fescues seed, half the U.S.-grown tall fescue seed, and about one-fourth its bluegrass seed.

Growers have burned their fields for decades, and in 1971 the legislature enacted a bill that would phase out the burning. But

the lawmakers in 1979 stopped the phaseout at 250,000 acres. A renewed move to ban the burning altogether was galvanized last year when one farmer was burning a field and the wind changed direction, blowing smoke onto a major highway and causing a seven-death, 37-car pileup.

"Intense" is how Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council, described feelings surrounding the debate in the state House and Senate.

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Hyundai set to make its move

BY MARK LESLIE

Hyundai Precision and Ind. Co., Ltd. will make its long-awaited entry into the American golfing arena when it exhibits its new golf car at the PGA's West Coast Golf Show in August.

Kwang-Heum Um, sales manager for Hyundai Precision in the United States, said the four-wheel-drive gas-or-electric-powered golf car will be displayed at the Long Beach, Calif., Convention Center on Aug. 19-21 and he hopes to have it on the marketplace nationwide next February.

"We hope to find good dealers and distributors for our product at the West Coast show. We will show our product to them then," Um said, adding that Hyundai is not negotiating with any dealers now.

He said Hyundai also will start developing

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The 6th hole on the Valleys Course, designed by Pete Dye, is the signature hole for Blackwolf Run Golf Course in Kohler, Wis.

For more on Blackwolf Run and other new courses see pages 12 and 13.



Sod suddenly making sense

BY MARK LESLIE

Sodding a golf course, an idea that once seemed a staggering expense, is worthwhile today to some people.

While Arizona State University has the luxury of allowing one year for its new Pete Dye-designed Karsten Golf Course to grow in from seed, many developers want—even need—to get players on the course much sooner to start paying back on their investment.

Developers selling property around a course want to tell customers they can play golf right away, not wait the three to six months it normally takes for grass seed to grow in. And the sooner the

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Industry, environmentalists cooperating

Professional pesticide applicators and environmentalists are cooperating more than in the past, according to some lawn care experts.

"Both groups now realize that there must be some give-and-take. Recent compromises seem to point toward some progress," said Dr. James F. Wilkinson of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America in Marietta, Ga.

In an effort to accommodate requests by people with environmental and health concerns, many applicators now

inform their customers of the exact product mix they will apply and whether any precautions need to be taken during the application. Some applicators, upon request, will notify nearby property owners in advance about any treatments. Nowadays, they also will sometimes post a small sign at the entrance way to treated properties, he said.

A random sampling of members of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America indicates that more and more professional applicators are using pesticides only when and where they are

required.

Many do-it-yourself pesticide users, however, still practice with the 'more is better' attitude, according to the PLCAA.

"We're (PLCAA members) beginning to use more of the newer, less toxic, EPA-registered pesticides," Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson added, "Some of these products require greater customer education and cooperation to achieve good results, but it shows our industry is willing to do what it takes to care for our customers and environment."

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Field-burning

Continued from page 1

That intensity remains, with two organizations mobilizing referendums against the field-burning.

Bill Johnson, a 75-year-old retired teacher and founder of End Noxious Unhealthy Fumes, wants to ban the burning immediately,

while Jay Thiele and his Oregonians Against Fuel Burning propose a four-year phaseout.

They each need 65,000 signatures of registered voters on their initiatives by July 3, 1990, in order to get the issue before voters in the November 1990 general election.

Nelson said the Oregon Seed Council will conduct an extensive campaign to educate the public about the industry, and added, "We're going to need \$2 million to \$3 million for an election campaign if it should get on the 1990 ballot."

He said the issue may not get to vote because "there's a much broader understanding of the industry and less animosity exhibited by the public than by the legislature."

Until any future vote and law changes, "status quo" means that 250,000 of Oregon's 345,000 grass seed-producing acres can still be burned.

Yet various people in the industry — from farmers to manufacturers to universities — will "intensify research," Nelson said. For its part, the Seed Council may raise its membership fees and use those extra funds to support that research.

"The industry clearly understands that we have to modify our production process so that we can do it economically without burning," Nelson said. "We're moving as fast as we can toward whatever is available to us."

But, "it's unrealistic to expect a four-year (phaseout) program to discover anything because you basically have only a two- to three-month period to do your work," Nelson said, referring to the harvesting time. "Then you have to wait a year for your next field test. And you have to have the growers pay money to change over their equipment to that technology."

"The seed industry will study and see what we might do in this research. We've got to keep our eye on the goal, which is to continue to grow grass seed with quality and in quantity."

The research

Meanwhile, researchers will probe "some engineering possibilities and other kinds of harvesting" to improve the situation, said Oregon State's Young.

"The problem is, all the work hasn't been done," he said. "The issue of disease is a difficult one to research. Like it or not, disease is a kind of epidemiological spread of things... When we evaluate a crop 8- by 20-feet and it looks like it burns all right, we can't sell that result without a little bit of caveat that it's not the same as if you

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NEW LITERATURE

Irrigation group looks at future

"No Water ... No Future," a brochure completed by the Irrigation Association's Water Conservation Development Committee, is being used as the centerpiece of an industrywide campaign to educate the public.

The four-color brochure outlines the water problems facing the country and explains how the irrigation industry can help conserve water in both urban and rural areas.

It has been endorsed by a dozen other national organizations.

The Irrigation Association, which is now producing an audiovisual program about irrigation, stated:

"As the representative of the irrigation industry, IA is the source of expertise when it comes to questions regarding the use of water for irrigation. We stand ready to assist anyone interested in conservation irrigation."

Golf House cites 'Golfing Art' for annual award

"Golfing Art," by Phil Pilley, has been selected as the winner of the second Golf House International Book Award.

The Golf House International Book Award is presented by the United States Golf Association in recognition of outstanding literary contributions to the game.

Pilley's book, published by Salem House Publishing in Topsfield, Mass., was selected from 50 books published in 1988 on the game of golf.

The award was announced at the Golf Writers Association of

America dinner sponsored by the USGA in conjunction with the 1989 U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont Country Club in Rochester, N.Y.

"Golfing Art" is a collection of golf-related artwork from around the world. British professional Tony Jacklin wrote in the book's foreword, "Golfing Art" is a wonderful book for me because the superb pictures reflect the history and tradition of golf."

USGA's Golf House holds the world's largest and most complete library devoted solely to golf.

'Obviously additional funding (for research) would be nice but these guys aren't going to wait for a political solution to the funding issue if that means waiting years.'

— Mike Rear

Field-burning

Continued from page 25

treated 100 acres or 1,000 acres. And we're talking about 350,000 acres in the Willamette Valley."

Young said the practice of field-burning has been a "single-source solution to the problem, taking care of it in one operation. With it, we get seed control, weed control, improved herbicide efficacy."

Referring to the propane burners, which some farms are using to torch harvested fields with 30-foot-long burners, Young said two improvements are necessary for them to be more efficient: "You have to slow them down to 1 mph (from 3-4 mph), but that costs money" and it has to burn hotter because "propaning doesn't product enough heat to kill the germs" so now it just burns the stems, stubble and chaffy aftermath left from the harvesting.

One engineering company indeed reportedly is trying to make a more complete-combustion propane burner.

Young and the Seed Council's Nelson both said hope is offered by a machine three farms are field-testing for Rear's Manufacturing in Eugene, Ore.

Mike Rear is optimistic about initial results from the machine but warns that a one-year test is not sufficient.

The machine — "we call it a rear-bagger or a big sucker" — is a modification of a flail mower with a vacuum field, Rear said. "We wanted to see what would happen if you removed the straw and attempted to sanitize the field other than with heat — or to add heat after the bulk of mass has been removed."

The three farms used the machine on 1,000 acres and did not propane the fields afterward. Rear said it appears weed-control was successful, but they don't yet know exactly how effective the process was.

After cutting the fields, the machine vacuums up the host for disease — the vegetation, chaff, etc., that is on the ground.

"I don't think there's any doubt we'll make progress (in the research) each year...," Rear said. "Our goal is equal or increased yield without burning. But we're looking at four or five years down the road at the current level of commitment from growers, which by the way we view as phenomenal."

He added, "Growers universally are concerned that they can supply the market with the quality they now have and that they can keep (their share of) the market. Obviously additional funding (for research) would be nice but these guys aren't going to wait for a political solution to the funding issue if that means waiting years."

"The problem with research," Rear said, "is that it always is slow."

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