

# Washington county enacts burning law

While turfseed growers struggle against field-burning opponents in Oregon, the county of Spokane in Washington State puts a strict field-burning law into effect this year.

The Spokane County Commission established a tough new law that seed producers fear may spread to neighboring counties and the state of Idaho.

Doyle Jacklin, vice president of marketing for Jacklin Seed in Post Falls, Idaho, said the Spokane County law "does not affect Idaho or the surrounding counties but it's only a matter of time before those counties probably adopt the same rules."

"It definitely is a worrisome factor. It will affect us. And it appears there will be a gradual phaseout of burning in the Northwest."

The Spokane County law limits the number of "burn days" to 14 and they must be consecutive. "If rain comes and you can't burn, then that's tough," Jacklin said.

The law "also places a cap on the number of acres, and, in essence, says that existing acres can be burned but newly seeded acres cannot," he said.

A group called the Clean Air Coalition has been formed in Jacklin's home state of Idaho to oppose field-burning.

Jacklin said its members claim "burning could cause cancer because they don't know what toxins could be emitted by fields that have been treated by herbicide or insecticide. Well, in the first place they are very short-lived chemicals that are biodegradable and they don't even exist when we burn. If they did exist, burning would turn them to carbon dioxide and water."

"But they have raised the issue in the media as if it could be a cancer-causing process."

Jacklin guessed that in Idaho

the question of burning will be one or two years behind the states of Washington and Oregon, "but it will fall into line, and we'll have to deal with it in the same way as they have."

In the meantime, private companies are researching the subject, and the state has funded \$350,000 this year to the Department of Ecology to study to discover the effects of burning; if any toxins are emitted during the process; and the best climatic conditions to burn in.

# Field days show industry progress

Record, even international, attendance was reported at the seed industry field days held this summer in the Northwest, the capital for turf seed.

Since the first field day, held eight years ago by Turf-Seed in Hubbard, Ore., the events have been growing in popularity and attendance.

Jacklin Seed Co. in Post Falls, Idaho, and Turf Merchants in Tangent, Ore., are also now holding annual field days.

Many seed distributors are turning the field days into a one-week tour of the region. This year, Jacklin hosted its "Discovery Tour" on Monday and Tuesday,

Turf-Seed held its event Thursday and Turf Merchant closed the week with a Friday presentation.

"We had an excellent turnout. Just under 200 (wholesale distributors and media people) attended," said Doyle Jacklin, vice president of marketing for Jacklin Seed.

Jacklin said his firm set a different sort of agenda this year, its third. It spent time on its "burn trials" which tested 90 turfgrass varieties on 40 acres for their production when the field is not burned.

The company also took people on a tour of its greenhouse, research laboratory and condition-

ing plant. Jacklin said a separate tour will be scheduled, if needed, for sod growers and golf course superintendents.

Tom Stanley said 500 attended Turf-Seed's event, equaling 1989 when the American Seed Trade Association Conference was held in Seattle, Wash.

Sod producers, golf course superintendents, landscapers, university professors and most of the firm's regional seed distributors attended the session.

"It was truly an international event," Stanley said, referring to guests from Finland, Japan, Aus-

*Continued on page 22*

# BENTGRASS

## Field-burning

*Continued from page 17*

problems than the field-burning, because "the residue doesn't go up in smoke but just lays on the ground."

He said: "A lot of growers are just plowing up the fields. But where they've done that, it's like a dust bowl."

Mike Robinson, president of Seed Research of Oregon, said the initiatives' failure "has made the growers and state agencies realize that something really has to be done. I think we'll see more effort into research. The farmers are doing more on their own to reduce burning."

"I think eventually within 10 years we're going to have to phase out field-burning."

Robinson said propane burning could be the answer, but burning foes include it in their call for a ban.

"If it's properly done, there's very little smoke produced, and that's ideal," he said.

## These Pros Know A Great Bentgrass When They See It.

It takes a real professional to recognize the benefits of a superior turfgrass. These superintendents are pros at growing grass. Their expertise is invaluable in evaluating new turfgrass cultivars. So when we developed Providence and SR 1020 we went straight to them. We realized that university data was useful but that evaluation by outstanding superintendents under varied golf course conditions was more important.

These superintendents have all used Providence and/or SR 1020. Their comments have been enthusiastic about the performance

of both cultivars: the color, texture, density, disease resistance, and heat and drought tolerance are outstanding.

Providence and SR 1020 also produce excellent putting quality. That's important to the superintendent and to the golfer. Especially, a professional golfer like Ben Crenshaw. Ben knows golf greens and appreciates a bent that can provide a fine textured, uniform surface with an absence of grain for true putting quality.

Both cultivars produce this outstanding turf and putting quality with reduced maintenance. That's

important to superintendents, golfers, architects, and greens committees.

So nationwide the pros agree, Providence and SR 1020 really are exciting new cultivars. They represent the new generation of creeping bentgrasses.



P.O. Box 1416 • Corvallis, OR 97339 • (800) 253-5766

# Green Section deciding \$3M in research funds

BY PETER BLAIS

The United States Golf Association Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee has begun meetings to discuss how \$3 million in research money on the environmental impact of golf courses will be spent.

The Research Committee began meeting in July to evaluate the 83 proposals received from land grant universities throughout the United States. The proposals deal with the effects of pesticides and fertilizers on the environment, alternative methods of pest control and the influence of golf courses on people and wildlife.

The committee will make its final funding decisions by December, according to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Some successful proposals, especially those in the North, where experimental plantings need to be made before the onset of winter, could be notified earlier, he added.

The 10 to 12 proposals chosen begin receiving money by next February, the USGA official said.

The proposals have ranged from a \$10,000, three-year University of Maryland study on valuation of cultivation techniques for white grub control to a \$395,000, three-year University of California at River-

**'The game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of fertilizers and pesticides.'**

— C. Grant Spaeth, USGA President

side study of the fate of pesticides and nitrogen in a turfgrass environment.

The \$3 million funding package is part of the USGA's overall three-year, \$5.4 million research effort, more than double any previous spending on research.

"Right now the game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of fertilizers and pesticides," said USGA President C. Grant Spaeth. "I can

think of nothing more urgent to golf than to answer this environmental question and to propose responsible solutions."

The Research Committee plans to expand its current 13 members to include officials from a government agency like the Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental organization like the Audubon Society and a technical turf expert, according to Snow.

The committee currently consists

of Chairman Snow; Green Section Committee Chairman Raymond Anderson; Sea Island (Ga.) Golf Club superintendent Tom Burton; Iowa State University Professor Nick Christians; USGA Executive Director David Fay; University of California at Riverside Professor Vic Gibeault; Peter Hayes, director of the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England.

Also Howard Kaerwer, a retired turfgrass breeder with Northrup-King, Inc.; USGA Director of Green Section Research Mike Kenna; Director of Green Section Administration Dean Knuth; Michigan State University Professor Paul Rieke; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America secretary/treasurer Bill Roberts; and Jim Watson, vice president of Toro Co.

The project will be the responsibility of the Green Section Committee chaired by Anderson. The GCSAA is cooperating with the USGA on this enterprise.

Spaeth promised the USGA will enter the program with no preconceived position.

"We must maintain a position as the honest and independent broker," he said.

The studies will examine whether fertilizers and pesticides contaminate ground water and, if they do, the duration of their impact.

The USGA plans to appoint a wildlife ecologist to help golf courses develop and preserve wildlife habitat.

"Golf courses are often ideally suited for the preservation of wildlife species and we want to assist our members in improving their habitat," Spaeth said.

## Field days

*Continued from page 18*

tralia, New Zealand and other countries.

Stanley said field days are "a very important marketing tool because people can see, first-hand, our research effort and how legitimate it is, talk to our staff, and see that we do things one way — the right way. And they appreciate that.

"It's also a good chance to communicate important information to our customers."

A tour took attendees to Turf Seed's 110-acre research site.

Steve Tubbs said Turf Merchants limits its field day to distributors and the media. This year's, attended by 125, was "a time to look at what's new, to learn, and to have a barbecue and socialize as well as educate," he said.

Tubbs said Turf Merchants unveiled new varieties and explained how and why certain varieties were chosen over others to develop — "all things that help them sell the seed."

Turf Merchants also conducted a tour of its 130-acre research site which includes 5,000 turf plots and breeder blocks.

The future of field days? They will keep growing. "We've already got next year's planned," said Jacklin with a laugh. "Next June 18 and 19."

# Introducing a new pressure relief package from Ryan.



## At \$300, it's just a drop in the bucket compared to the alternative.

The pressure of heavy traffic during peak summer months can cause extreme soil compaction which puts you under a lot of pressure as well. How do you maintain healthy turf without interrupting play and spending a small fortune?

You get Ryan's new Solid Tine Aeration Kit.

The Solid Tine Aeration Kit converts your Ryan GA™30 or Greensaire® 24 to a



supplemental aerator with adjustable depths up to 3" and variable spacing on the GA30. The kits include holders and 1/4" solid tines which easily mount in just minutes. There's no mess to clean up after aeration. No hoses to drag around. No high price to justify.

There's really no reason not to have one. Contact your Ryan dealer or call toll-free 1-800-228-4444 for more information today.

**RYAN**

**BUILT TO LAST**

9132 Cushman, P.O. Box 82409, Lincoln, NE 68501  
© Cushman Inc. 1990. A Ransomes Company

For free information circle #117

All rights reserved.