

NEWS

Foundation to survey Ohio turf industry

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation has appropriated funds to sponsor a survey of Ohio's turfgrass industry. This survey is being conducted by The Ohio State University's Department of Agricultural Economics. All of the state's turfgrass industry, including professional, private and residential sectors, are being surveyed.

The first questionnaires were sent in early April. John Fanning, foundation president, is encouraging everyone who receives a questionnaire to complete it accurately and quickly.

"Ohio's turfgrass industry has experienced tremendous growth in the past 10 years," Fanning said. "The only way to accurately assess the size of this industry is through a comprehensive survey. Collectively, these results will be used to convey to the general public, state legislators, university administrators and others the importance of the turfgrass industry in Ohio."

The survey is expected to be completed in early 1991.

Study says: Use charcoal

A Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries study recently showed that scattering granulated charcoal over greens greatly reduces ground water pollution by chemicals.

An experiment reported in the magazine *Ground Water Monitor* showed ordinary charcoal absorbed chemicals 1,000 times more effectively than inorganic compounds and 100 times more effectively than soil. The amount of charcoal needed varies with its acid-alkali content.

The cost is minimal since a single application is effective for years. Japanese courses use an average two metric tons of chemicals annually.

Boyd, Kelly form company

Ronald Boyd, former staff engineer for Espey, Huston & Associates, has founded an environmental consulting company with wetlands regulation expert Michael Kelly.

Williamsburg Environmental Group, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., will work nationwide, according to Boyd.

Boyd, a water resources expert, is president of the firm and Kelly vice president, while Lee Goodwin is the environmental planner using expertise in fertilizer-pesticide management. Kelly worked for the West Virginia Marine Resources Commission, then for four years with Espey, Huston.

Boyd said the company will work primarily on golf courses and already is consulting on several projects in the East.

Landmark Land attempts deal

Salomon Brothers, Inc. has been retained to sell Landmark Land Co. now that the federal government has disallowed a Landmark deal to sell \$967 million in real estate to California developer Barry G. Hon.

Landmark, through its Oak Tree Savings subsidiary, owns and operates several golf resorts including PGA West, La Quinta and Mission Hills in the Palm Springs, Calif., area.

The Office of Thrift Supervision objected in early May to Landmark's plan to finance 75 percent of the proposed real estate sale to Hon. OTS said the transaction would have committed more than 20 percent of

Landmark's assets to a single borrower.

Instead, the Carmel, Calif.-based company will try to sell just one development — Oak Valley — to Hon for \$275 million while attempting to restructure or sell the company.

Oak Valley is a 6,700-acre parcel five miles east of Redlands, Calif., that has one course under construction and three others planned.

Landmark will realize a \$170 million pre-tax profit if the sale is OK'd.

"The sale of Oak Valley gives us enough time to look at our other alternatives for the rest of our property," said Doug Barton, Landmark's vice president.

The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 that tightened restrictions on savings and loan associations owning real estate has resulted in the possible sale of Landmark.

Salomon Bros. managing director of real estate J. Steven Manolis said Landmark's golf operations and real estate could be attractive to Japanese buyers. But the Japanese have avoided high-profile U.S. real estate deals recently, partly because of anti-Japanese sentiments.

Company Chairman Gerald G. Barton owns 28 percent and Toronto-based Olympia & York Developments Ltd. 24 percent of Landmark.

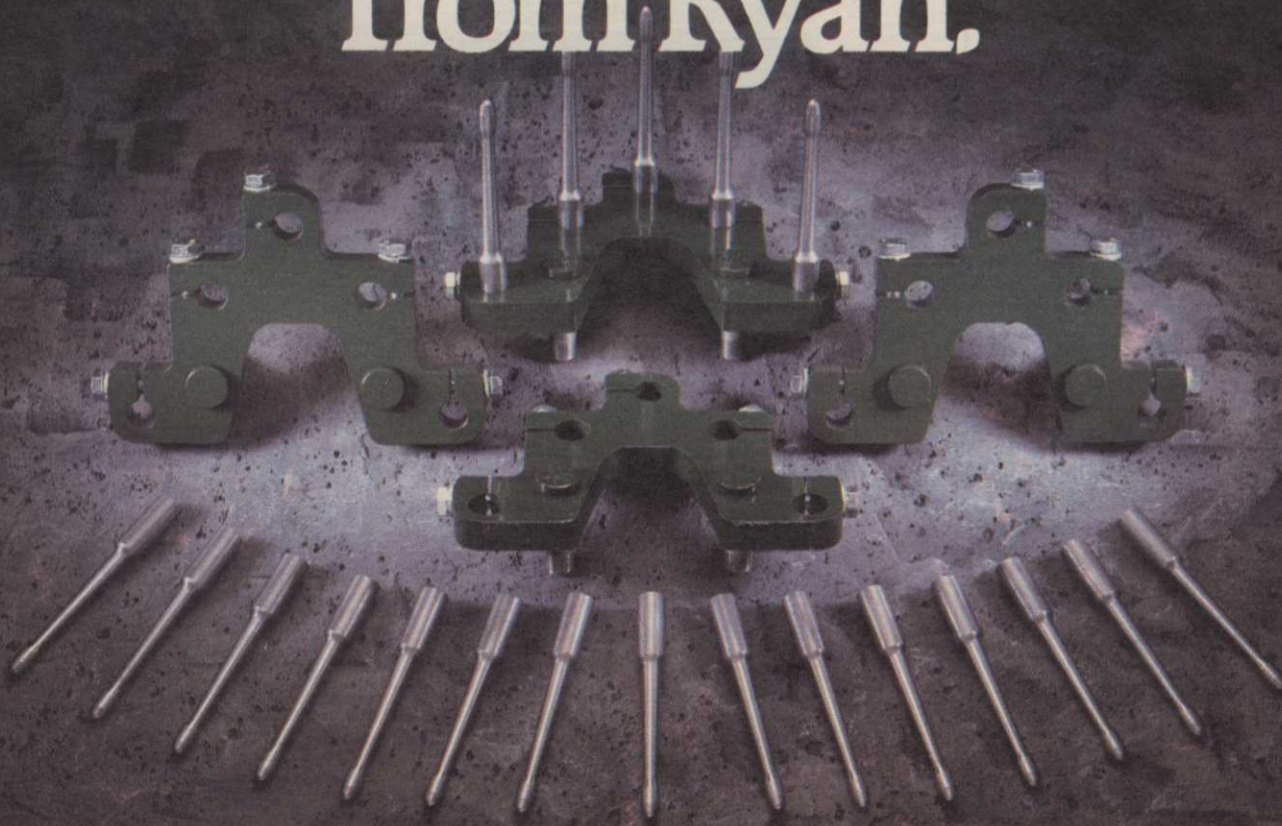
EPA hotline opens to help with rules, technology

The Environmental Protection Agency is operating a hotline to provide golf courses and other small businesses with information on complying with government regulations and help with technical questions.

The EPA Small Business Ombudsman office will man the line from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST) Mondays through Fridays.

The telephone number is 800-368-5888 or 703-557-1938.

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