

# Yeutter headlines agronomists' conference

## 'Herbicide hysteria,' other topics on tap

Topics ranging from "herbicide hysteria" to careless use of pesticides will be covered in papers presented Oct. 21-26 at the American Society of Agronomy's annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Papers will be read after U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter opens the conclave Monday morning and Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister of Atmospheric and Environmental Service Elizabeth Dowdeswell keynotes the theme symposium "Agronomy and

the Environment" in the afternoon.

J.W. King, associate professor of turf management at the University of Arkansas, will relate how he led an information campaign to deflect an attack on herbicides and defeat it at the polls. His paper is entitled "Herbicide Hysteria Disrupts Fayetteville."

Dr. James Beard, professor of turf physiology at Texas A&M University, will talk on the need for turf researchers and practitioners to become involved with legislation.

Jay Feldman will cite careless use of pesticides as a major health-care risk facing society. Feldman, of the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, says the

Environmental Protection Agency has gravely underestimated this risk and he calls for a reassessment of the most common turf pesticides in accordance with new federally required safety standards.

Other papers will discuss the benefits of turfgrass, from psychological to thermal; use of turf in recycling waste; environmental issues of golf course construction; advantages of high-pressure water injection compared to traditional methods of aeration; the effect of cultural practices on nitrate leaching and nitrogen uptake of turf; and other topics.

The 1990 conference will be the first for ASA's new Division A-8 (soil

and plant science applications) aimed at meeting the needs of professionals. An A-8 workshop is entitled "The Practitioner's World View: Identifying Concerns, Proposing Changes."

Dowdeswell will be joined in the symposium by Peter Day, professor at Rutgers University's Agbiotech Center; Jay Lehr, executive director of the National Water Well Association; Steve Rawlins, USDA-ARS researcher; and Donald Worster, professor of environmental history at the University of Kansas.

More information is available by contacting the ASA at 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, Wis. 53711-1086; 608-273-8080.

# NEWS

## CC of Miami plans include \$52M resort

Ramada International has tentatively agreed to build a \$52 million golf resort as part of the renovation of the Country Club of Miami (Fla.).

Ramada plans to build a 375-room hotel on 17 acres of Dade County property on land now called the Golf Club of Miami. The complex will occupy the site of the old clubhouse and should open by 1993.

The county has already spent millions of dollars to renovate the club's two golf courses — \$8.7 million to buy the courses, \$4 million in renovations to the east and west championship courses, and \$4 million for an executive course scheduled to open in January.

The Metro Commission turned management of the courses over to the PGA Tour and PAR Sports Enterprises, a group of black investors, in the hopes of making the project profitable.

The hotel was considered vital to ensure the project's success by drawing visitors and tournaments to the club. Several concessions were offered to get Ramada, which is building a similar golf resort in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Dade County agreed to pay for a new \$3 million clubhouse, golf cart facility and improved parking. The County, PAR Sports and PGA Tour also agreed to defer or reduce rent payments for the first 10 years.

The county expects to earn \$21.5 million in revenues over the next 20 years. Final approval is expected in September or October.

## NuMex Sahara earns royalties for N.M. State

New Mexico State University in Las Cruces has received \$30,372 from royalties on NuMex Sahara.

One of the first improved seed-propagated Bermudagrasses, NuMex Sahara was developed in NMSU's Agricultural Experiment Station turfgrass breeding program.

"NuMex Sahara's claim to fame is that it is a seed-propagated variety that is denser and has more drought-resistance than common Bermudagrass," said Arden Baltensperger, agronomy and horticulture professor emeritus.

He said the grass also does not grow as tall as other seeded Bermudagrass varieties.

Baltensperger said the U.S. Golf Association supported the research with grants totaling \$67,500 over a five-year period beginning in 1984. When the AES accepted the funding, it was with the understanding that royalties from varieties developed during the funding period would be shared 50-50, after expenses, by the USGA and the AES.

"NuMex Sahara is the first turfgrass released by a USGA-sponsored research program to produce minimal maintenance turfgrass for golf," said Mike Kenna, director of Green Section research for USGA.

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