

## NEWS

Mr. Maturra, the sales manager for Kenko Commerce of Japan, in suit, inspects bentgrass at Arima Hot Springs Resort near Osaka, along with Mr. Koura, left, who owns a fertilizer and seed company in Osaka; Dr. C. Richard Skogley, recently retired professor from the University of Rhode Island, center; and Armen G. Suny, a golf course superintendent and consultant from Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, Colo., right. An unidentified observer is to the right of Maturra.



## American expertise goes to Japan

BY MARK LESLIE

Dramatic climatic changes, high maintenance costs and lack of turfgrass education are major problems for the burgeoning golf industry in Japan, according to four Americans who recently returned from a teaching visit to that country.

"If golf is to become a game of the masses as in the U.S.A., construction and maintenance costs will have to be reduced many-fold," said Dr. C. Richard Skogley, a turfgrass expert who retired from the University of Rhode Island this

year.

Skogley accompanied Mike Robinson, president of Seed Research of Oregon; David Fleming, golf course superintendent, consultant and architect from El Cajon, Calif.; and Armen Suny, a superintendent and consultant from Castle Pines Golf Club in Castle Rock, Colo.

More than 500 of Japan's 1,500 superintendents turned out to hear the Americans speak on golf management. The seminars, sponsored by Seed Research of Oregon and its Japan agent, Kenko Commerce, were held in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Kumamoto and Sapporo.

Fleming, president of the new Golf Properties Management, Inc., said: "A lot of new information was presented on greens management, overseeding, plant breeding and research. Change in methods generally takes time for acceptance, and the first step toward change is the delivery of new ideas and information.

"I think we have left food for thought and, hopefully, better turf management, and better golf courses will be the result..."

"There's no formal education there at all for superintendents," Robinson said. "A couple of colleges have horticultural courses, but very little instruction in turf management. That's part of the breakdown."

Robinson, who plans to repeat the educational tour, said the Japanese superintendents were "very receptive" to his group. "They're trying hard and are very proud of their courses, but in some cases they've had bad advice," he said.

Robinson referred to the great number of greens not properly built.

Fleming agreed. "There seems to be mixed to slight interest in the USGA (U.S. Golf Association) construction method," he said. "In such a country, with abundant rainfall, the focus is more on drainage than anything else. Whereas the USGA green features a perched water table as well as controlled infiltration rates.

"I believe the results of a USGA spec green, and an aggressive top dressing program would prove to have excellent water infiltration, coupled with healthy, less disease-susceptible turf."

Suny said Japan's superintendents need to top dress and verticut their greens more and more. He added: "Turf managers need to learn more about overseeding. It appears to be a 'foreign concept!'"

Climate is a major problem, Robinson said. The northern part of the country has conditions similar to Canada, while the southern end has two situations — the very hot and humid areas at lower elevations that struggle with diseases, and the nearby mountainous region that has few problems.

Skogley said the Japanese turf industry "needs to take some action to show and demonstrate the safety of properly used pesticides."

Chiba Prefecture has taken steps to outlaw all insecticides and herbi-

Continued on page 7

# WINTER-KILL? GROW-IN? ESTABLISHED TURF?

Weed Free newly planted turf... also pegging and rooting with safety of RegalStar.

## RegalStar™ DOES THE JOB!

This is why RegalStar™ is the preferred product of Turf Managers from California to Miami. If you have problems, even with winter-kill, RegalStar™ is your solution because it does not prune roots! When you row plant, sprig or sod, use it right over the top. No other herbicide can match the weed control while being so gentle on the roots. Truly the worry-free herbicide.

So remember, for unmatched benefits and results that are consistent on grow-in and established turf, use the most preferred herbicide. Use RegalStar.™

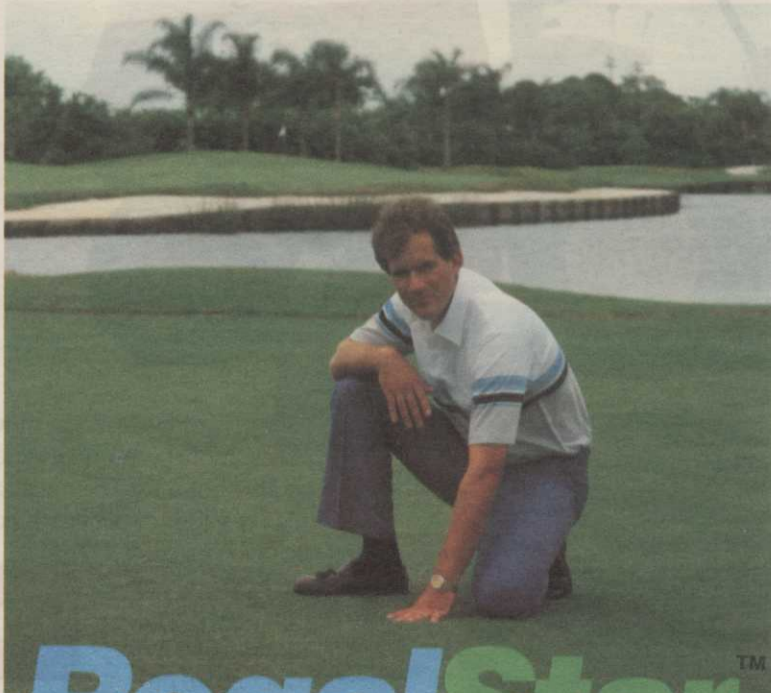
**EARLY ORDER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE NOW!  
CALL US AT 1-800-621-5208**



Home of RegalStar™

**Regal Chemical Company**

P.O. Box 900, Alpharetta, GA 30239  
404/475-4837 Toll Free: 800/621-5208



# RegalStar™

*"The Preferred  
Herbicide In All Cases"*

\*Winter-kill is shown to be much more destructive in cases where root pruning chemicals have been employed. For further information on this or on our complete line of quality products, please call us toll free.

For free information circle #104



# Bass Group expands golf course division work

Golf course developers and operators Arthur Jeffords, Edward Ewing and Donald O'Quinn have joined Marion Bass Investment Group to direct its new golf course development division.

The division, Bass Golf, Inc., will manage a series of investment funds that will build and manage golf courses in metropolitan and resort areas, principally in the Southeast.

Jeffords and Ewing, vice presidents of Bass Golf, have extensive experience in golf course development and management, according to Marion Bass, president of Bass Golf and chairman of Marion Bass Investment Group.

They will also assist golf course owners and developers with professional services ranging from overall property development and construction to operational management.

O'Quinn serves as director of golf course construction for Bass Golf. In his 30-year career, he has worked with Arnold Palmer, Jack



Arthur Jeffords

Nicklaus, Gary Player and Pete Dye in creating some of the world's best known courses, including Harbour

Town Golf Links in Hilton Head, S.C.; Kiawah Island (S.C.) Links; and Amelia Links in Amelia Island, Fla.

PGA professional Jeffords heads golf course development and management for Bass Golf.

Jeffords was formerly a principal in Jeffords, Ewing & Associates, a



Edward Ewing

golf management and development company based in Murrells Inlet, S.C. He worked with architect Tom Fazio to

plan and build Wachesaw Plantation Club, a private course in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

Jeffords is president of the Wachesaw club.

Jeffords was associated with Sea Pines Plantation of Hilton Head Island for more than 12 years when he served as director of golf for the



D. O'Quinn

resort's four golf courses and as head professional at Harbour Town Golf Links.

Ewing heads research, site selection and negotiation activities for Bass Golf. Ewing was formerly a principal with Arthur Jeffords in Jeffords, Ewing & Associates.

At Wachesaw Plantation Club, Ewing was responsible for all operations and served as controller for the \$80-million golf and residential development. Ewing served as a



CPA specializing in golf and residential projects with Welker, Harris & Co. and the international accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand.

O'Quinn previously served as executive vice president of Sea Pines Co. He was in charge of sports operations and golf course development, building eight courses in five states and Puerto Rico.

He also served as chairman of the PGA Tour's Heritage Golf Classic.

## Japanese

Continued from page 6

cides on new golf courses because of spills and incidents of misuse resulting "from lack of education," Robinson said. There are threats of similar action in other prefectures.

As Fleming said: "There seems to be a lot of pressure to manage without the use of protective chemicals. We were given a list of available chemicals that seemed adequate for good course management... There is a real need for an education program on the new breed of agricultural chemicals with shorter half-lives and less persistence in the soils. There can be safe co-existence with the environment and the proper use of protective chemicals."

To Skogley's comment that maintenance costs are extraordinarily high, Robinson explained, "You have twice as many people on the grounds crews there, but they don't have the same equipment we do."

He said some new Japanese courses have the latest machinery while others don't.

Without modern equipment, groundskeeping is "very labor intensive," he said, mentioning one course he toured where four women were walking beside one another hand-spreading fertilizer.

Regarding grasses, Suny suggested the Japanese use more Bermudagrass and improve their northern and mountain courses by growing perennial ryegrass and bentgrasses in the fairways — an idea that must be sold into "a bluegrass mentality."

Skogley added that Japan should be a market for colonial bentgrasses and fine fescues for fairways and tees, and for fine fescue mixtures in roughs and banks.

"Ryegrasses have unlimited potential for all fairway and tee overseeding, possibly in combination with colonial and fine fescues, particularly as you move north," Skogley said.



## FLEXBRUSH

**There's never been a faster, better, easier way to top dress greens!**

Now you can turn your Toro or Jacobsen greens mower into the finest top dress brushing system ever invented, with FLEXBRUSH from Standard Golf.

FLEXBRUSH enables you to save time, while avoiding unnecessary damage to your greens. It's actually a set of three brushes that follow contours and undulations like no dragging method can, and it's excellent for brushing after deep tine aeration. Plus, it installs quickly and easily.

For more information, contact your nearby authorized Standard Golf distributor.



**Standard Golf Company**  
 P.O. Box 68  
 Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
 319-266-2638  
 FAX 319-266-9627