

# Idaho seed growers win legislative showdown

Continued from page 1

vote, Don Jacklin, vice president and director of seed production for Jacklin Seed Co. of Post Falls, Idaho, said he hoped for a compromise in the legislature. Other forces on both sides of the issue were less conciliatory.

Burning is crucial to the industry, Jacklin explained, because the stubble of the previous crop must be eliminated to prevent shading the new tillers (new growth) of the plants. He said maximum light intensity provides a greater "photo

period," length of time the plant is exposed to light.

Jacklin, whose company reportedly is the largest producer and contractor of Kentucky bluegrass in the country, and others support a measure that would limit, but not ban, burning.

"We see this as the only way for short-term survival — reduce the number of acres burned and reduce the amount of particulates (solid emissions)," he said. "If we don't compromise, we won't survive."

But the turf seed industry employs more than 15,000 persons in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, and there are farmers unwilling to compromise. They see their livelihoods at stake, and the state of Idaho is equally cognizant of the economic benefits of the seed farmers. This is especially true today, when both mining and forestry, Idaho's major industries, are in decline.

Yet, Idaho has another major industry — tourism. Probably the loudest voice for tourism is that of developer Duane Hagadone, owner

of the soon-to-open Coeur d'Alene Resort golf course, adjacent hotels and marina.

His voice is amplified in newspapers he owns in Idaho, and he is, says Jacklin, fervently opposed to field burning. Putting aside the possibility of a highway tragedy such as Oregon's, seeing smoke billowing in the air above an area touted as pristine, is not conducive to a favorable first impression by visitors.

Tillage — one alternative to burning — produces equally onerous billows. As fields are blown

away, dust is airborne. This is a regular occurrence when the wheat farmers across the state plow their fields.

Environmentally, Jacklin said burning is far superior to tilling. He cites research which indicates that without the grass cover, 3.2 tons per acre of dust and soil emissions are put into the air in Washington, 4.2 tons per acre in Idaho. The particulate matter issued by burning runs about 20 pounds, not tons, per acre. And there is no loss of precious topsoil. But, Jacklin acknowledges, smoke is a greater public relations problem than dust.

The projected law would have required a 20-percent reduction of grass acreage burned during 1991 and 1992, and eliminated all burning of grass stubble.

The turfgrass industry supports both aspects of the law. At the same time, there is anger that the bill does not address slash-burning (burning logging and other debris) by the U.S. Forest Service. This practice, Jacklin claims, is responsible for 30 percent of northern Idaho's airborne smoke. He feels the Forest Service should be subject to burning permits and identification of the areas put to the torch.

Considered another negative aspect of the bill was creation of a seven-person commission, comprising representatives of tourism, agriculture and other groups. These persons would be paid, and their pay would come from grass-burning research funds. "It means we'll be shooting ourselves in the foot," said Jacklin.

One legislator supporting the bill was Rep. Jim Stochief of Boundary County, adjacent to the grass-growing counties of Bonner, Kootenai and Benewah. The solon favored the burning restrictions in those counties, but kept his own constituency immune from the law, according to Jacklin.

Farmers out of the area fear that, if any anti-burning legislation is passed, it will open the door to future legislation growers feel will be anti-agriculture.

With the bill's failure, Jacklin is afraid it will create a backlash of public opinion that will force more restrictive legislation. This will leave little room for compromise.

# Revolutions in Turfgrassground.

This means greens dry faster after rain or irrigation. And it causes less injury to the grass. Result?

Deeper roots, as confirmed by four years of independent research at Michigan State University. This should lead to healthier, stronger turf.

No more cores either. Or paying a crew for cleanup and top-dressing. Just one operator is required. These savings can cut your aeration costs dramatically. And, best of all, your golfers can play without delay. Think how much that can mean in minimal loss of greens fees.



What's more, this remarkable machine can also be used on tees, fairways or anywhere you need aeration relief.

And your HydroJect 3000 is backed by our Direct Today 48 Hour Delivery program. Any part not immediately available from your Toro distributor can be delivered to you within 48 hours anywhere in the 48 contiguous United States.

3000 is backed by our Direct Today 48 Hour Delivery program. Any part not immediately available from your Toro distributor can be delivered to you within 48



Sound good? Call your Toro distributor for a revolutionary demonstration.

The HydroJect™ 3000.

The Professionals That Keep You Cutting.

**TORO**

## City refinancing \$18.7M in bonds

PORTORANGE, Fla. — In an effort to generate funds for a proposed golf course and three water-related projects, the Port Orange City Council will refinance about \$18.7 million of water and sewer bonds.

An 18-hole course is planned near residential sections of Cypress Head, a 713-acre planned unit development between I-95 and Airport Road and north of Pioneer Trail.

The city plans to construct the course with about \$3.2 million in water and sewer bonds because the site has been deemed a major effluent reuse water disposal site.