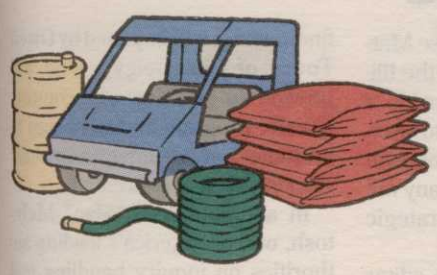
Briefs



CATALANO RETURNS TO RAIN BIRD

GLENDORA, Calif. — Rain Bird Sales, Inc. has announced four appointments to its Golf Division.

Mike Catalano has returned to the position of product manager after a tenure as independent irrigation consultant. He will be instrumental in new product development as well as improvement and maintenance of the existing product line.

Mike Catalano

Tony Matlock, new product manager, will serve as coach, coordinator, trainer and motivator in improving service to the golf trade. He was instrumental in establishing the certified supplier program.

As product applications engineer, Clayton Harvey will be responsible for training personnel and service of Rain Bird golf equipment on the East Coast. Harvey will be based in Tampa, Fla.

Marnie Tadlock, new marketing assistant, has worked in the accounts payable department for Rain Bird. She is completing her bachelor's degree in marketing at Cal Poly, Pomona.

FMC ADDS ASIAN DISTRIBUTOR

Farmers Marketing Corp. of Phoenix, Ariz., has added a distributor in Southeast Asia. Leisure Management Ltd., located in Bangkok, Thailand, will market and sell the new turf-type variety of Bermudagrass, NuMex Sahara, exclusively in Thailand.

Leisure Management is active in promoting golf course construction and development in Thailand.

Leisure Management has seed available in Thailand, as well as hydroseeding equipment and mechanical seeders for turf establishment.

Farmers Marketing Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer Royce R. Richardson, said: ""It is exciting to work with a company that has demonstrated such enthusiasm for our variety, Sahara. They have advertised the product in their country, purchased seed for inventory, and are using Sahara on their own courses, as well as courses developed by others."

HERRON ELECTED TO LESCO BOARD

CLEVELAND, Ohio — F. Leon (Le) Herron Jr., retired chairman and president of O.M. Scott & Sons, Inc., has been elected to the board of directors of LESCO, Inc.

The election fills an existing vacancy and increases the board to its authorized number of nine members.

Herron joined O.M. Scott & Sons, now The Scott Companies, in 1965. He was elected president in 1966 and chairman in 1971. He served as chairman and president until his retirement in 1983.

During his tenure, Scotts' sales grew dramatically and it expanded into international distribution.

Quality of vegetative Bermudagrass far exceeds seeded varieties, tests show

The most significant results in the national field tests on Bermudagrasses reportedly concern the seven seeded varieties, which as a block ranked at the bottom of entrants.

"The quality of seeded types is not near that of vegetative types," said Kevin Morris, national director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

Morris said a lot of researchers are working on seeded Bermudas and more cultivars will enter the marketplace. "But they probably won't reach the quality of the seeded varieties for at least several years."

Vegetative Bermudas must be sprigged, which is costly, while Bermuda seed **does** grow in quickly, Morris said. But the major problem with all of the varieties of the warm-season turf is susceptibility to winter kill in cooler areas.

U.S. Golf Association Green Section National Director Jim Snow said that in choosing a Bermudagrass a superintendent "especially has to consider where he is because of (Bermuda's lack of) winter hardiness. Color and texture aren't as important. It's if the grasses survive. And survive is a relative term. It can do with so much damage unless it takes a very long time to come back (from dormancy)."

Mike Kenna, director of Green Section research, said the nationwide tests are helpful but "should only be one part of the decision-making process."

He said there is a wide range in the way the test plots are maintained. "One university may keep it wonderfully, while at the next one the plots are riddled with weeds," he said.

Kenna suggested superintendents check the test results, then talk to the researchers in their region, then visit the site to see the grass in conditions close to their own.

"That's where the test is a valuable tool," he said. "If a superintendent bases his decision on the overall mean (of the test alone), he can really mess it up."

Top 29 Bermudagrasses in national tests

Name	AR1	AZ1	CA2	CA3	FL1	KS2	LA1	MD1	MO4	MS1	UB1	VA1	VA4	Mean
*Tifway	7.9	7.9	6.7	6.4	7.9	1.0	7.6	7.1	1.9	7.5	7.3	6.2	7.1	6.3
*Tifway II	7.8	7.8	6.4	6.4	8.1	1.5	7.7	6.8	1.0	7.7	7.3	6.3	7.1	6.3
MSB-10	7.6	7.8	6.9	6.3	8.1	1.7	7.7	6.8	1.0	7.7	6.7	6.3	6.8	6.3
A-29	7.1	6.9	5.5	5.5	6.4	8.2	7.1	5.8	1.4	5.1	7.0	7.0	5.5	6.0
E-29	7.0	6.4	5.6	5.7	6.6	8.0	6.2	5.8	2.8	4.4	6.8	6.5	5.9	6.0
*MIDIRON	6.8	6.4	5.9	5.8	6.9	7.5	6.8	5.3	2.7	4.2	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.9
A-22	7.1	6.6	5.5	5.9	5.9	7.7	6.6	5.7	1.4	5.1	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.8
MSB-20	7.4	7.1	5.7	5.5	7.7	1.0	7.1	6.3	1.0	6.9	7.6	5.5	6.6	5.8
NM 43	6.9	7.1	5.6	5.8	7.7	1.2	7.2	6.2	1.0	6.7	7.7	6.2	6.1	5.8
MSB-30	6.0	6.9	6.5	5.8	6.5	2.7	7.1	6.7	1.5	5.9	6.2	5.7	7.1	5.7
*TUFCOTE	7.6	6.2	5.7	5.7	7.2	2.0	7.4	5.4	1.0	5.6	7.4	6.5	6.7	5.7
*TIFGREEN	6.7	6.9	5.7	5.6	8.1	1.3	6.8	5.9	1.0	6.2	7.8	6.0	6.4	5.7
CT-23	5.0	7.2	5.6	5.9	6.5	3.0	7.2	6.4	1.0	5.6	5.7	4.8	6.2	5.4
NM 507	6.3	7.7	6.2	5.6	8.1	1.0	7.4	6.2	1.0	4.5	4.3	4.8	6.9	5.4
*TEXTURF 10	6.3	6.6	5.5	5.5	7.0	2.8	6.3	5.5	1.0	4.7	5.8	6.3	6.3	5.4
NM 471	5.8	6.9	6.1	6.0	7.6	1.0	7.3	5.8	1.0	4.4	4.8	5.2	6.9	5.3
RS-1	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.3	1.5	3.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.2
FB-119	5.4	6.1	5.4	5.2	6.7	1.0	7.3	5.8	1.2	4.6	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.2
NM 375	5.7	6.2	5.4	5.6	7.1	1.0	6.6	5.2	1.0	4.0	6.1	5.8	6.0	5.1
*VAMONT	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.3	6.7	3.2	5.7	4.8	2.1	4.0	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.0
NMS 3	4.7	6.4	5.3	5.5	6.7	1.0	6.8	5.7	1.0	3.8	5.9	5.5	6.2	5.0
NM 72	4.8	6.4	5.2	5.1	7.8	1.0	6.6	5.4	1.0	4.5	5.4	4.8	6.2	4.9
NMS 4	5.6	6.5	5.5	5.3	7.2	1.0	6.2	5.1	1.2	2.7	5.8	5.0	5.9	4.8
*GUYMON	5.1	6.2	4.6	5.2	6.2	6.2	5.6	4.8	2.6	2.2	5.1	3.2	3.0	4.6
*NMS 1 (NUMEX-SAHARA)	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.1	4.9	1.0	6.3	5.2	1.0	2.6	5.2	4.0	5.6	4.3
NMS 2	4.9	4.5	5.1	5.1	3.8	1.0	5.4	5.3	1.0	2.4	5.4	3.8	5.4	4.1
NMS 14	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.6	1.0	5.2	4.6	1.0	2.3	4	4.2	5.1	4.0
*AZ- COMMON	4.6	4.2	4.8	4.9	4.4	1.0	5.4	3.4	1.0	2.2	5.0	4.0	4.7	3.8
LSD VALUE	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.8	1.6	0.7	0.3

* — Brands available on the marketplace.

Locations submitting data for the National Perennial Ryegrass Test follow, with their code names, type of soil, nitrogen in pounds per 1,000 square feet, mowing height in inches, and irrigation practices:

Scott improves fertilizer coating

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — O.M. Scott & Sons Co. has developed Poly-S, a breakthrough in controlled-release fertilizer coating technology, the company claims.

Harvey Goertz, a Scott research scientist, said the process applies a double coat to fertilizer. The primary coat is sulfur over urea and the secondary coat a proprietary polymer.

"By varying the composition and amount of the polymer, we are able to vary the release rate. We've been able to get products that will last two to six months," Goertz said.

"Sulfur-coated products by and large last six weeks to three months. They control that by increasing the weight of the sulfur. When you add more sulfur to try to last beyond three months, the efficiency drops off. You have such a tight coating that some of the nutrient never releases at all.

"We no longer depend on sulfur thickness. Our product releases almost all its nutrients."

Goertz feels the process, on which patent is pending, is a technological breakthrough.

"This is the first time we've been able to achieve these results at a low cost, which sets it apart from other processes," he said. "Some resin-coated fertilizers last up to a year, but they are very expensive to produce."

Scott says Poly-S technology offers:

- the physical advantages of abrasion resistance, no dust, and decreased build-up on equipment;
- chemical pluses of increased water insoluble nitrogen values, and resistance to environmental stress;
- agronomic advantages of uniform release from week to week, adjustable release rates, reduced surge growth, extended residual, decreased temperature sensitivity, increased nutrient efficiency and low phototoxicity; and
- the financial benefit that it is an economic source of nutrients that provide extended release for turf.

ITODA to conduct annual meeting

The Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association will hold its annual conference in Hilton Head, S.C. Oct. 23-27.

The association, formed in June 1990, includes distributors who market products and service to the professional turf and ornamental companies

ITODA members are dedicated to "the principles of developing and maintaining the highest levels of marketing stewardship, training and developing quality sales personnel and providing the highest level of service to product end-users through education, technical support and communication."

Members gather at least twice a year to discuss industry issues related to distribution of products and services.

More information is available by contacting President Herb Lea at 301-899-3535 or Membership Chairman Don Hepler at 217-352-0591.