

West

LOW WATER USE HELPED FIRE

Reduced outdoor watering and smaller-sized lawns contributed to the devastation caused by the fires in Oakland and Berkeley, Calif., according to Dr. James Beard, professor of soil and crop sciences at Texas A&M University, College Station.

Because of five to six years of drought, and "in the mistaken belief" that lawn watering is wasteful, many Californians had been convinced by local



ordinances and official statements that they needed to severely restrict outdoor watering and even eliminate grass from their landscapes, Beard said.

He said, "When the fires began, they were fueled by dry landscape plants, many of which had replaced turfgrass because they were viewed as water-saving.

"Turfgrasses are about 70 to 80 percent water, by weight, and even a moderately maintained lawn can serve as a fire barrier."

Beard said it should now be obvious that Californians and others need to take "a close and careful look at the benefits turfgrasses can provide."

"They aren't the useless, wasteful, water hogs some people say they are," he said.

"They can, in fact, save lives, with minimal amounts of supplemental water."

As the area begins the clean-up and rebuilding process at a time when heavy winter rains can be expected to cause mud slides, American Sod Producers Association Executive Director Douglas Fender said turfgrass sod roots establish very quickly and stabilize embankments within a few days.

"Rain waters moving through grass will soak into soil more deeply and could recharge underground aquifers, rather than rush down a slope, forcing silt and sediment to loosen large areas that result in mudslides," he said.

North Central



MERCURY BAN

The Minnesota state Legislature has passed a bill that will ban mercury products as of July 1, 1994.

Mercury, lead, cadmium and hexavalent chromium are being banned from fungicides, dyes and paints.

Courses from Minneapolis north, which have snow cover from late fall to late March or April will be more affected than courses elsewhere.

Superintendents report that alternatives to mercury-based products have not worked effectively under those conditions.

University of Minnesota researchers are studying different management procedures to control snow mold.

MAINTENANCE SHORT COURSE SET

The 6th annual Ohio State University Golf Course Maintenance Short Course, providing general and basic information on turfgrass maintenance, will be conducted Jan. 13-17 at Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus, Ohio.

Designed for all golf course personnel, the course will emphasize agronomy, soils, entomology and plant pathology.

Recertification credits from the Ohio Department of Agriculture for Licensed Pesticide Applicators will be given attendees, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will award continuing education units.

More information is available from Sue White at 614-292-7457. People may register through the Department of Conferences and Institutes at 614-292-4230.

OTF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation will award nine \$1,000 scholarships this year.

The OTF scholarship program, which has given \$100,000, will be made at the OTF Conference and Show, Dec. 2-5 in Cincinnati.

One is given to a college freshman who commits to study turf. The Max F. Szturm Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established this year in honor of the golf course superintendent who greatly influenced the turf industry in the Cincinnati area.

Memorial scholarships are also given in the names of Dick Duke of ChemLawn and George M. Biddulph of the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. Additional money is being awarded from Central Ohio GCSA and Nor-Am Chemical Co.

OSU PERSONNEL CHANGES

A dramatic effect in the philosophy and direction of research, extension and teaching programs in agriculture is expected from major personnel changes in the four top administration positions in Ohio State University's College of Agriculture.

Dr. Bobby Moser, director of the OSU Cooperative Extension Service, has been named vice president of agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture.

Moser's priorities will be to bring stability to the Ag College leadership; fill several key positions in the college including director of the Cooperative Extension Service, director of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and director of the Agricultural Technical Institute when Dr. Don Garrison retires in March.

He also expects to expand satellite hookups to other universities for cooperative teaching efforts from faculty to students; improve the teaching curriculum; develop an environmental science to blend good science with a concern for the environment, and attract students to careers in agriculture.

HAGCSA ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Missouri student Michael N. Griswold was awarded the \$1,000 Chet Mendenhall Scholarship and four other turf management students received \$500 scholarships from the Heart of America GCSA.

University of Missouri's David R. Budnick and Kansas State University students Deloss Buseman, James "Woody" Moriarty and Karl V. Weding were the other recipients.

The scholarships are given annual to students for their leadership qualities, achievement, outstanding character, ability to write and speak well, interest in golf course management as a career, and superior performance as employees of a golf course.

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Jim Heinze and the selections were approved by the board of directors.

South Central



SOUTHWEST RGA GETS AID

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The U.S. Golf Association, in an effort to encourage minority participation in all levels of golf, has awarded a grant to the Southwest Regional Golf Association to help develop the SWRGA's junior golf program.

The grant was presented to Jerry Redo, president of SWRGA, by Mark Passey, manager of the USGA's South Central Regional Affairs office, during the SWRGA's annual Golf Classics Awards banquet, held in Wichita, Kan.

The SWRGA is an association of 13 clubs located in Shreveport, La; Memphis, Tenn.; Lawton, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City, Okla.; Fort Worth, Longview, and San Antonio, Texas; Wichita and Kansas City, Kan.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Albuquerque, N.M.

This grant will provide funds to initiate junior golf programs for 400 youngsters in SWRGA communities.

These junior programs will feature clinics, professional instruction, practice time at driving ranges, and tournament administration.

LeRoy Richardson, of Forest Park, Okla., a member of the USGA's Public Golf Committee, helped arrange for the grant.

New Publications From NGF

Golf Participation In Canada 1991 Edition

A comprehensive demographic profile of the nearly four million people who play the game throughout Canada's 10 provinces. The format of this 50-page report is almost identical to the one the NGF publishes annually on participation in the U.S. \$175.00

Golf Facilities in Canada 1991 Edition

An overview of Canada's 1859 golf courses by facility type (private vs. public and semi-private), by size (number of holes), length (regulation, par-3, executive) and location. The format of this report is also very similar to the one the NGF produces each year on golf facilities in the U.S. \$175.00

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Mountains

IPM SEMINAR

Reservations are due by Dec. 15 for a two-day seminar, Introduction to Integrated Pest Management, to be held Jan. 16-17 in Tempe, Ariz.

The seminar will present an overview of the concepts of integrated plant management with "practical, progressive suggestions for use in implementing a program."

Drs. Pat Vittum and Gail Schumann of the University of Massachusetts will teach the seminar.

They will discuss the politics of pesticides, general agronomic principles, and the limitations of IPM.

They will present environmentally safe maintenance practices for control of disease, insects and weeds, as well as discuss diagnostic aids, monitoring techniques and preventative versus curative treatments.

The seminar will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel-Tempe.

the GCSAA will present 1.4 continuing education units, while the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission has accredited the seminar for 12 hours.

It is being co-hosted by the Cactus & Pine GCSA and GCSAA, and people may register by contacting GCSAA at 913-832-4444.

CAIN PASSES AWAY

Earl S. Cain, a long-time member and supporter of the Cactus & Pine GCSAA, died Oct. 15.

A Jackson, Tenn., native and World War II veteran, Mr. Cain was a member of the Roosevelt Council of Boy Scouts of American and John C. Lincoln Hospital and Health Center.

He leaves a wife, Carol Feffer, three children and five grandchildren.

