

Briefs



CADMIUM REVIEW CANCELED

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced termination of a special review on the fungicide cadmium chloride (Caddy, Liquid Cadmium Turf Fungicide) because of voluntary cancellation of the only remaining cadmium chloride pesticide registration by its producer, W. A. Cleary Corp.

According to EPA, "No cadmium chloride product may be sold, distributed or released for shipment by the registrant after July 31, 1991, and no cadmium chloride product may be sold or distributed by a retailer, dealer or any person after Dec. 31, 1991.

"Golf courses or end-users may not obtain or take possession of cadmium chloride product after Dec. 31, 1991. Supplies in their possession as of that day may be used until exhausted."

LEAK DETECTOR DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Environmental Protection Agency has extended to Sept. 22 the deadline for installing automatic leak detectors in underground storage tanks that have pressurized piping systems.

The extension applies only to installation, on underground pressurized piping systems, of leak detectors that meet EPA's minimum performance requirements.

CHEMICAL REGISTRATION MAY BE CHANGED

The Environmental Protection Agency's new four-year strategy recommends establishing slow and fast tracks for processing chemical registrations.

Under the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs recommendations, "safer pesticides" would be allowed on the "fast track," insuring quicker release to the marketplace.

More hazardous pesticides would be put on the slower registration track.

The strategy also calls for increasing availability of information and public awareness concerning pesticide risks, effectiveness of pesticide management programs, and the options for pest control.

RINGER RECALLS GRUB ATTACK

Ringer Corp. has announced voluntary recall of its Grub Attack product which employs bacillus popilliae (milky spore disease) and is used for the control of Japanese beetle grubs.

Grub Attack is marketed only in the northeastern United States and is the only product sold by Ringer which uses bacillus popilliae.

SORENSEN HEADS BIOTECH PANEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. John Sorenson, executive director for Vegetable Research for Asgrow, is the chairman of the American Seed Trade Association's recently formed Biotechnology Committee.

Voc-tech school starts maintenance course

By Thyra Porter

WINTERGARDEN, Fla.— With more than 1000 golf courses located in the state, Florida educators have realized that golf course maintenance skills can help high school students find jobs, and perhaps careers, after graduation.

Now the first vocational-technical school to offer turfgrass operations courses to Florida high school students plans to gear those courses to adults already working in the field.

Mike Armbruster, instructor of turfgrass operations courses at Westside Vocational Technical Center, said the school has offered the courses to high school students for the past four years. Seventy percent of the graduates go on to find jobs in the field, Armbruster said.

While adults can enroll in the courses offered to younger students, Armbruster said most classes are held during the day, making it difficult for those already holding down jobs to attend.

Still, Armbruster noted, many golf course workers would benefit from adding additional skills.

"We're not trying to train superintendents here. We're trying to train people who work below superintendents," Armbruster said. "We're looking to train good employees."

Under Armbruster's program, adult students get on-the-job training during the day, working out a schedule with their employers to ensure varied experience through the work day.

"We want to make sure they get exposure to each of the elements," Armbruster said.

Though a worker may have a primary responsibility, instructors want to introduce other aspects of greens care over the length of the course. "We don't want someone locked into the weedeater for a year," he said.

Steve Wright, superintendent at Alaqua Country Club in Longwood, Fla., is trying to help Armbruster line up superintendents to teach night courses at Westside VoTech. Wright said offering turf operations courses to students and adults ultimately helps managers, by providing a more skilled labor pool.

"It's hard to find workers for the lower-level starting positions with any skills," Wright pointed out. "Everyone said 'I've mowed lawns before,' which is great, but it doesn't pertain to this."

Both high school and adult students receive certificates of completion, Armbruster said. The turfgrass operations year (two years for high school students who attend classes for half the day) covers a nine point program of goals set by the Florida Department of Education.

Armbruster said students learn to maintain greens, tees, fairway roughs, and traps; repair and service turf equipment; fertilize turf and control turf pathogens; plant and maintain grass, trees, flowers and shrubs; keep records; and demonstrate proficiency in the basic math, science and communications skills needed in agricultural problem-solving.

Kishwaukee adds golf horticulture

MALTA, Ill. — Kishwaukee College has expanded its horticulture course offerings to include classes in golf course management.

The community college's horticulture instructor, Larry Marty, foresees a great employment future for students who study greens care.

"It's an exciting career," he said, citing a study by the National Golf Foundation that predicts more than 30 million golfers in the United States by the year 2000. To accommodate those new golfers, the study found that 4,000 additional golf courses will need to be built. That translates to jobs for workers of all ages, Marty said, not just the traditional college student summer job.

Marty's students study golf course design, pesticide safety, equipment maintenance, computers and landscaping.

"The golf course superintendent today needs to be more than a grass cutter. He must manage his people, the budget and the environment," Marty said.

To help students along, Westside is planning to build what Armbruster calls a "par three, par four golf green," with two sets of
Continued on page 15

Washington supers scramble vs winter kill

Continued from page 1

cover, as in Spokane.

In the Spokane suburb of Cheney, the Fairways course had no damage at all on its renowned Pennncross bentgrass greens, even though, as a prairie course, it is susceptible to high winds and cold temperatures.

Two hundred miles east, in the Cascade Mountain foothills, Bear Creek, with predominantly Pennncross greens, suffered only in areas where poa annua had invaded. But Bear Creek also had a blanket of snow more than a foot deep.

Along the Columbia River, which enjoys milder temperatures, Lake Woods and Lake Chelan, snowless in March, suffered extensive damage.

All was fine in the Northwest until an unseasonable thaw in February sent temperatures rising across the state. The grasses awoke in the warmth and were promptly blasted by a killing March freeze. Poa, being shallow-rooted and not at all cold-tolerant, died immediately. Most of the greens on the Spokane municipal courses are heavily weighted to the annual bluegrass.

Fairways superintendent Chris Becker said he monitored his greens daily during the thaw and subsequent freeze. There was no snow cover at the course, and he was concerned with desiccation (in which case he applied water to the surface) and disease.

But, Becker "... put the turf to sleep for the winter in an unstressed condition. We applied the proper nutrient and fungicide applications in the fall, along with raising the height of the cut," he said.

The assaulted putting surfaces meant lost revenue to the city of Spokane as well as the pro shops. Revenues were down about 30 percent at Indian Canyon, Downriver and Esmeralda.

Play in mid-May was running 15,000 rounds



Bob Spiwak photo

A golfer checks a lie on a Spokane course green which is mostly dirt.

behind 1990 as golfers sought a better venue on which to putt — places such as Robert Muir Graves' Meadowood, a 3-year-old county course with bentgrass greens; Painted Hills; and Fairways.

All are 5 years old or less and essentially devoid of poa.

A case in point is the private Manito course on Spokane's South Hill. Five of the greens were rebuilt a few years ago and seeded with bentgrass. They emerged the winter unscathed, while the other greens, largely poa, were extensively damaged.

Indian Canyon head pro Gary Lindeblad, who hosts the prestigious Roseaur's Spokane Open in July, said the Canyon was considering applying one of the new pre-germinated seed formulas on the greens.

"They claim the greens are playable two weeks after application," he said.

Golfers in the area are not abashed at placing the blame on the city Parks Depart-

ment, which oversees greenskeeping at the municipal courses.

"They are civil servants," said one. "They get a check every 40 hours. What do they care about the greens? And look at the cart paths. They're a mess."

The cold spring weather did not help efforts to get the courses back in shape. Cold nights retarded germination of new seed, and above-average rainfall also slowed recovery and added to compaction.

City officials point out that increased numbers of players have heightened stress on courses, which were not designed for the heavy play they have been getting.

To prevent lost greens in the future, officials are considering blankets that cover the entire green, and mulching with straw. But, the huge blankets make mowing and maintenance difficult, and use of straw, some agronomists claim, is an invitation to a host of diseases.

PLCAA president seeks closer ties with GCSAA

By Peter Blais

Neal DeAngelo expects the lawn care and golf industries to work more closely in the coming years, especially in the area of chemical application.

"A solid relationship has been building over the past two years with the two industries having many common interests and positions," said the new president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America and owner of Lawn Specialties, a professional lawn care company with offices in Hazleton and Allentown, Pa.

"We're primarily interested in the regulatory and legislative issues having to do with pesticide applications, particularly posting, ground water protection and worker protection."

DeAngelo, who is also president of the Pennsylvania Lawn Care Association, said the state lawn care group and the state superintendents associations have worked closely in the past. Both have developed position statements on chemical applications and will meet soon to determine where they can work together to promote common interests.

DeAngelo said he hopes similar exchanges will occur on the national level, although communication so far between national lawn care and superintendent associations has been limited to green industry coalition efforts both have been invited to attend.

"It would behoove both groups to work together on a national basis," DeAngelo said. "One of the PLCAA's major goals is to work with other organizations."

The PLCAA has been busy in Washington, D.C., this year.

The organization has closely monitored the Town of Casey vs. The State of Wisconsin, a Supreme Court case testing whether a municipality can institute chemical application regulations more stringent than the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The PLCAA has successfully fought against municipal efforts at enforcing more stringent laws at lower court levels, DeAngelo said.

The national association has also lobbied to tone down elements of the Reid-Lieberman Senate bill dealing with posting and pre-notification of chemical applications.

And the PLCAA has offered in-

put into a General Accounting Office report focusing on lawn care industry advertising. The GAO report will be released later this year.

Stabilizing the PLCAA's membership has been another major goal for DeAngelo, who assumed the presidency in November. Total membership fell from a 1987 high of 1,324 to about 1,000 last fall. Approximately 100 new members have signed up since DeAngelo took office, and he hopes membership rolls will eventually include at least 1,500 of the nation's estimated 6,000

chemical lawn care companies.

A 1989 dues increase, ranging from 100 to 667 percent, drove many members from the association. Restructuring dues, especially for smaller companies, has helped attract new members, DeAngelo said.

The PLCAA has also introduced new products in the past few months, including a liability insurance and reinstatement of regional training.

Seminars, sponsored jointly with state associations, will be held July 10 in Wooster, Ohio; July 16 in Louisville, Ky.; July 18 in India-

napolis; July 22 in Billings, Mont.; Aug. 6 in Ames, Iowa; Aug. 7 at State College, Pa.; and Aug. 8 in Rochester, N.Y. The cost is \$40 for PLCAA or co-sponsoring association members and \$85 for non-members.

Updating the PLCAA's strategic planning process, assisting new Executive Vice President Ann McClure and helping organize this November's Green Industry Exposition in Tampa, Fla., have also taken much of DeAngelo's time.

After a successful inaugural Expo

in Nashville last November, the PLCAA has signed a three-year contract to continue the annual event in cooperation with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and Professional Grounds Management Society. DeAngelo expects exhibitors and attendees to rise 10 to 15 percent this fall.

"I've really enjoyed my time as president," said DeAngelo, who will be succeeded by President-elect Bob Andrews of Carmel, Ind., in November. "It's been a lot of work, but it's worth it."

Q. Which turfgrass stays green around and under trees, even at this time of year?



A. Oregon Grown Fine Fescue, for sure!



Call or write for literature about this terrific turfgrass.

Oregon Fine Fescue Commission

866 Lancaster Drive SE / Salem, OR 97301 / 503-585-1157

CIRCLE #111

Voc-tech course

Continued from page 13

tees. School officials hope most of the estimated \$21,000 tab will be picked up by companies that donated needed materials, like sprinkler heads, with the rest of the cost covered by the school budget.

For Armbruster, best of all is that his turf operations course gives a direction to people who may not have known how to prepare for a career.

Most assume the great-looking golf courses they see on TV got that way by accident, Armbruster said. "But when they find out what goes on behind the scenes, it's really fascinating."