

## Briefs

**RUTGERS GETS \$98,000 IN ROYALTIES**

Seed Research of Oregon has given more than \$98,000 in royalty payments to Rutgers University. The royalty payments were based on sales of SR 4000, SR 4100, and SR 4200 perennial ryegrasses; Titan tall fescue and SR 3000 hard fescue.

All of these varieties came out of Dr. Reed Funk's turfgrass breeding program.

Royalty payments in excess of \$4,000 and \$6,000 were also made to the University of Rhode Island and Arizona State University, respectively, for sales of the improved creeping bentgrasses, Providence and SR 1020.

**BEST SAND INITIATES SCHOLARSHIPS**

CHARDON, Ohio — Best Sand Corp. has created a turfgrass management scholarship of up to \$4,000.

Formation of the annual award was announced at the recent Ohio Turfgrass Conference by Stuart Lipp, Best Sand sport/turf market manager.

The scholarship, covering one year's tuition and books, will go to a turfgrass management student from either Ohio State University in Columbus; The Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster; or Clark State Community College in Springfield.

The first award will be made in June. Applications may be obtained from school advisers or by contacting Lipp at 800-237-4986.

**GEORGIA CONFERENCE A SUCCESS**

Georgia Turfgrass Conference and Show organizers report that attendance increased for the 21st consecutive year. The attendance of 1,229 was up six percent from 1989's dramatic increase of 74 percent.

Georgia Department of Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin and University of Georgia Dean of the College of Agriculture William Flatt kicked off the conference, which focused on environmental issues.

The Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association, Georgia Turfgrass Association and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service cosponsored the event.

**PUGH SUPER AT SILVERHORN**

OKLAHOMACITY, Okla. — Louis A. Pugh has been named superintendent of the new Silverhorn Golf Club here.

Pugh, 32, comes to the nearly complete championship golf course from Oak Tree Country Club in Edmond, Okla., where he has been responsible for golf course management since 1984.

Pugh joined Oak Tree in 1976.

He has been involved in course preparations for the PGA championship, Oklahoma Open, NCAA championships, PGA Cup matches and the U. S. Amateur championship.

Silverhorn, an 18-hole, daily fee course in North Oklahoma City, is being developed by O-Sports Golf Development Ltd. Partnership.

The course is designed by golf course architect Randy Heckenkemper of Tulsa, and assisted by PGA Tour pros Willie Wood and Scott Verplank.

Course contractor is Golf Works, Inc., Austin, Texas.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

# Dr. Jackson: Fungicides to remain important tool for superintendents

By Peter Blais

FALMOUTH, Maine — Despite advances in cultural practices and biological controls, fungicides will remain an important tool in fighting turfgrass diseases, University of Rhode Island Professor Noel Jackson told a recent gathering of Maine superintendents.

A turf management specialist the past 34 years and one of this year's winners of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Jackson and two colleagues at URI recently received a three-year United States Golf Association grant to study mycorrhizal fungi.

Endophytic fungi present in the aerial parts of some grasses make them resistant to certain leaf-feeding insects. It is possible mycorrhizal fungi also confer benefits to turfgrasses, especially in situations of low fertility, water and phosphorous. The URI study will address these issues, Jackson said.

Despite widespread use of cultural control practices, golf courses still largely depend on pesticides, particularly fungicides, Jackson said.

The turfgrass industry is the No. 1 user of fungicides, spending 13 percent of all the fungicide dollars used in this country in 1987.



ment of the turfgrass industry.

At both public and private golf courses, fungicides make up the largest percentage (about 50 percent) of the pesticide budget, more than herbicides, nematicides or insecticides. The percentage is even larger in the Northeast for public (53 percent) and private courses (68 percent).

Top golf courses intensely maintain their turf, meaning the slightest blemish is clearly visible. Any imperfections trouble golfers, who are paying large sums to play at or join such clubs. They demand perfect conditions.

That's more than peanuts, grapes, pome fruits, nuts or rice, the other major users.

The \$42 million in fungicides used by golf courses in 1986 is more than any other seg-

"Most of the problems I'm asked to address relate to fungal diseases," Jackson said. "There are many agents that hurt turf, but major devastation is usually caused by fungi. That's why fungicides are essential.

"Disease-causing fungi can never be eliminated completely. What you hope to do is keep the populations down. You do that with a program of judicious spraying while manipulating the cultural techniques you know are also instrumental in reducing those populations. Essentially this is an integrated turf management approach.

"But turf maintenance levels on superior golf courses are so intensive that you can't get away without the use of chemical control agents. The more intensive the management, the more stressed and vulnerable the grasses become. The increasing conversion of fairways to bentgrass and the constant clamor for faster greens will only entail more reliance on fungicides."

Unfortunately, the use of chemicals upsets the public. Anything that has been even remotely linked to cancer, or any other human ailment, is fair game for environmentalists, Jackson said.

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## McBride accepts award as keeper of Tour's 'best'

Muirfield Village Golf Club superintendent Mike McBride, right, accepts the Golf Course News award for the best conditioned course on the pro tour from GCN publisher Charles von Brecht during February's GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Las Vegas. Professional golfers selected the Dublin, Ohio, facility in a recent poll.

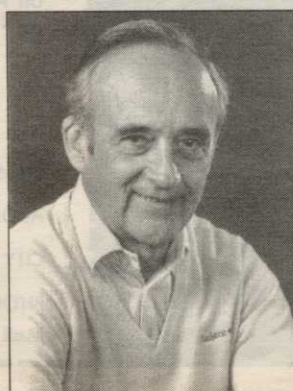
## Green Section honors retired Prof. Troll

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Dr. Joseph Troll, a prominent educator in the turfgrass industry, received the 1991 Green Section Award of the United States Golf Association at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's annual International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The award, established in 1961, recognizes distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

During his tenure at the University of Massachusetts, an estimated 1,100 students graduated from the program he directed. A majority became golf course superintendents.

Troll helped establish the Turf Research



Dr. Joseph Troll

remains active in turfgrass studies.

Center in South Deerfield, Mass., which is active in all aspects of research and testing new grass varieties.

Retired from UMass in 1988, Troll

He is general chairman of the Massachusetts Turf Conference, one of the largest assemblies of golf course superintendents and turfgrass personnel in the country, and has assisted the Northeastern Region of the USGA Green Section in its turf advisory service visits.

He received the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA in 1983.

One nomination said: "Dr. Troll uses every opportunity to promote golf, and especially the golf superintendent..."

"He has been a research and turf extension specialist as well, but his legacy is the numerous outstanding superintendents he has inspired."



## Jackson: fungicides to remain important

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Pointing to the Alar scare with apples, Jackson noted that technology now permits measurement of as little as a few parts per billion of a chemical contaminant. But is that concentration harmful?

"Who knows?" asked Jackson. "Our technology to measure something has outstripped our capacity to determine whether it is harmful or not. The problem is that environmentalists can still make a case for possible long-term effects.

"Those calling for a return to the lower pesticide usage of yesteryear aren't considering the increased quality expectation, increased wear (number of rounds) and lower mowing heights at today's courses. Those conditions require efficient preventive means of insect and disease control."

*Those calling for a return to the lower pesticide usage of yesteryear aren't considering the increased quality expectation.'*

Among the turfgrass diseases Jackson addressed were fusarium patch, cool-season brown patch, necrotic ring spot, take-all patch, summer patch, pythium blight, cool-season pythium and gray snow mold.

"All respond to fungicides, but there is no universal fungicide,"

Jackson said. "One difficulty that can arise with chemical control is that you may solve one problem but create another. Non-target effects of a particular chemical can be important. Control efforts against one fungus may influence native populations of microorganisms that were effective in suppressing another potentially harmful fungus, allowing it to flourish and cause disease."

"You (superintendents) have little margin for error in your turf management decisions," Jackson said. "That's why they pay you \$80,000 a year to walk the knife edge and not stumble."



Ransomes America Corp. Executive Director Helmut Adam, left, congratulates Cape May (N.J.) National Golf Club superintendent Steve Malikowski for winning the use of a Ransomes Greens 3000 mower for a year..

## Emerson

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Emerson never quit learning. His office walls are lined with plaques indicating completion of courses and seminars offered by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He knows many of the gurus of the golf course management industry, be they academics, architects, builders, suppliers, owners, golf professionals or superintendents.

Over the years, he has fielded many calls for assistance in the golf course management industry, and has presented seminars and classes on turf management and golf course renovation at universities.

To provide additional help to those whose solutions can not be provided over the phone, Emerson in May 1990 established the consulting firm of William J. Emerson CGCS & Associates, Turf Management Specialists. Clients have included a fertilizer company needing a marketing plan for the Mid-Atlantic region, a country club with a poa annual problem, and a country club whose maintenance staff required organizational and directional support.

"Within this framework," Emerson points out, "I can provide clients assistance at any level. I have at my disposal a number of extremely qualified persons who can aid in solving any turf management problem."

Emerson's declaration, "I love this work; I love golf, it's in my blood," has touched eldest son Shawn. A soon-to-be graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in agronomy, he recently was recognized by Trans-Miss with a scholarship.

Other members of the Emerson clan are son Scott, daughter Sharen and wife Patsy.

Scott, 19, enjoys other sports. After becoming a high school All-Arizona first team choice in baseball and second team pick in basketball, the 6-5 southpaw was drafted in the 21st round by the San Diego Padres.

Sharen is a "terrific bowler and tennis player" and Patsy a "world class shopper."

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