

Briefs



CALIFORNIA APPROVES JILL REPORTS

FRESNO, Calif. — The California Environmental Protection Agency has approved use of reports generated by JILL, the pesticide reporting software developed by Orange Enterprises, Inc.

The reports can reduce significantly the paperwork and time required for pesticide use reporting.

The paperwork reduction is achieved by including the pesticide use of several blocks in a single report. For example, a grower with ten adjacent grape blocks can use the program to produce a single report versus ten, eliminating 90 percent of the paperwork.

All California growers are required to file a monthly summary report and a detailed report each time they intend to apply a restricted material.

For more information, contact Orange Enterprises Inc., 2377 W. Shaw Suite 205, Fresno, Calif. 93711.; 209-229-2195.

UST DEADLINE EXTENSION PROPOSED

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed extending the compliance deadline for financial responsibility for underground storage tank owners from Oct. 26, 1991, to Dec. 31, 1992.

The proposed extension affects owners with 12 or fewer tanks at more than one facility, fewer than 100 tanks at a single facility and non-marketers with a net worth of less than \$20 million.

The extension is part of a broader effort to reduce the cost of these regulations on small businesses while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment.

UST OVERFILL LAW AMENDED

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued an amendment to the Underground Storage Tank overfill prevention requirements.

This final amendment allows overfill equipment to be used closer to the top of the large bulk storage tanks (those tanks frequently located at retail gasoline stations) because it acknowledges that sufficient volumes to receive excess petroleum or waste still would be available.

Overfilling UST systems is a common source of petroleum releases onto the surface of the ground.

TOMA KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — George Toma, who has prepared every Super Bowl playing surface, will be the keynote speaker at the fourth annual Southern Grounds and Turf Exhibition and Conference at the Convention Center here Nov. 19-20.

Toma's main job is caring for the Kansas City Royals baseball and KC Chiefs football fields.

More than 1,000 "heroes of the sod" will learn of the latest information and innovations in turf maintenance and landscape design.

More than 175 exhibitors from as far as Oregon will demonstrate state-of-the-art equipment, services and supplies for the grounds maintenance industry. Industry professionals will present 23 seminars on current and future trends of grounds and turf management.

For more information, contact the Specials Events Management division at 803-737-9355.

UK's 'brain drain' to Europe said serious

Vern Putney

United Kingdom groundsmen and greenkeeper associations are aware of a "brain drain" to Europe because of increased golf interest there, but think the flow of expertise is of no great concern at the moment.

While some may try to discourage exodus, many key figures in these specialized fields view the trend as more beneficial long run than harmful. The bottom line may be bigger paychecks and long-overdue recognition.

What greenkeepers overseas need is a Walter Hagen, observed William H. Bengueyfield, former national director of the United States Golf Association's Green Section.

The American golf professional took Europe by storm in the Roaring Twenties. He hobnobbed with kings and queens, startled the British and rocketed the pros from back door to celebrity status. The Haig's irrever-



What greenkeepers overseas need is a Walter Hagen.

— *Bill Bengueyfield*
former national director,
USGA Green Section

ent approach to society's strata set up immediate acceptance of his peers' status role.

Greenkeepers in the British Isles too long have been content to stay in the background despite their prominent part in the day-to-day success of course operations. They've lacked the dashing, glamorous image and a leading spokesman.

Perhaps that mantle can't be assumed, but they can speak fairly forcefully by taking their

talents to the highest bidder. Club members, conceded to be astute businessmen, understand that economic message.

As it stands now, a rather generous annual salary for a highly regarded greenkeeper is in the neighborhood of \$25,000, Bengueyfield ventured.

Derek Walder, secretary for the Institute of Groundsmanship, based in Milton Keynes,

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Career Center for college students planned again at Mid-Am show

The Mid-Am Trade Show is holding its third annual Career Center for college students and companies seeking graduating students during its 1992 show, Jan. 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Horticultural students from more than 50 regional colleges and universities will be invited to participate, as will horticulture industry employers from the Midwest.

The Career Center will provide students seeking full-time employment in nursery, garden center, landscape maintenance, design, exterior landscaping or interiorscaping industries with an opportunity to meet briefly with companies seeking qualified employees. Companies will be able to conduct brief introductory interviews with participating students.

Invitations will be issued to college and



university horticultural departments and industry companies this fall.

The show is sponsored by the Illinois Nurserymen's Association, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, and Wisconsin Landscape Federation. It is endorsed by Iowa Nurserymen's Association, Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association and Nebraska Association of Nurserymen.

For further information, contact the Mid-Am Trade Show, 1000 N. Rand Road, Suite 214, Wauconda, Ill. 60084; 708-526-2010.

New department created to help members abroad, GCSAA says

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has formed a new department to develop and implement programs for its 734 international members.

Tom Akins, GCSAA director of planning, will head the department and assume the new title of director of planning and international programs.

"This new department is part of GCSAA's commitment to share ideas about sound golf course management with the rest of the world," said Executive Director John M. Schilling.

The department has started surveying superintendents, university researchers and golf industry representatives worldwide to identify specific course management needs. "International requests for assistance and infor-

mation have steadily increased over the last several years," Akins said. "We're excited about the opportunity to focus our efforts on the international arena and provide tools for superintendents outside of the United States."

Akins noted that GCSAA will examine such options as education, publications and trade shows.

"Many countries already have established golf federations and associations that are providing quality professional development for their membership," he said. "Our desire is to work cooperatively with those associations, lending our expertise while learning from their unique methods."

Of the more than 10,800 current members of GCSAA, 734 live and work in 47 countries outside the United States.

Sports Turf Managers updated at conclave

PASADENA, Calif. — The Sports Turf Managers Association recently held its ninth sports turf institute at Brookside Park.

Speakers and topics were Mark Doble, Western Sod, "New Sports Turf Construction: Planning for Water Conservation"; Steve Cockerham, Univ. of California, Riverside, "Sports Turf Renovation"; Lynda Wightman, Hunter Industries, "Sports Turf Irrigation";

Dale Hansen, Kramer Sports Surfaces, "Alternative Solutions: When the Grass Doesn't Grow", and Mark Hodnick, Pasadena Parks and Forestry, "Budget Programming for the Drought."

The program provided insight into managing sports fields under water use restrictions imposed because of drought conditions in the western states.

Send data from independent water studies at courses

To add substance and bulk to the limited amount of research data on turf chemical runoff, *Golf Course News* is asking superintendents nationwide to let us know if a ground water or surface water study of any kind has been or is being done at their course.

"The Cape Cod Study was a good one, but it was only one study. There is a critical need for data on the impacts of turf chemicals on our water environment," said Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., who directed the Cape Cod Study.

Cohen said he has discovered several instances of isolated, limited golf course runoff or leaching studies. Those were usually conducted as a result of state or local requirements for special circumstances, such as gaining a zoning permit.

"When the results of studies are favorable, there is no press release from the state agency," said Cohen. "Since I know studies have been held and there has not been a media cry of 'dangers of golf courses,' my guess is that these studies are favorable to the industry."

Superintendents are asked simply to write, listing:

- a contact name and phone number;
- the pesticides being monitored;
- whether it is a surface or ground water study;
- if monitoring wells were installed;
- if the study was a condition of a permit; and
- if a final report was issued.

Cohen, who will follow up on this initial information, has agreed to compile the results and summarize them in an upcoming issue of *Golf Course News*.

Knowing superintendents may be too busy to expand on the study, Cohen asked that they at least identify a contact person and the time period during which the study was done.

"Most studies may have just a handful of data," he said, "but taken in total, it could be another step in drawing the whole picture of the multi-year impact of golf courses on the environment."

People are asked to send the information to Cohen at Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., 11141 Georgia Ave., Suite 208, Wheaton, Md. 20902.

UK superintendents leaving for fertile European ground

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Buckinghamshire, England, thinks the threat of skilled shortage will lead to new awareness by employers of the value of Walder's fellow professionals.

That, in turn, will mean a new look at current wages. "Anywhere grass is grown," he declared, "our members are prominent. Far from just moving around plants and ornamentals, planting shrubs and decorating, they are recognized in Europe as distinctive craftsmen. They are paid accordingly."

"If this movement means an economic upturn for groundsmen, so much the better. The paycheck is important."

The British International Golf Association echoes that stand. Several members of that greenkeeper or course superintendent group have been attracted to the greener cash fields of Europe.

Jack McMillan may be the leading example. The first president of the English & International Golf Groundkeepers Association and past chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association "defected" to greener, more financially fertile pastures and golf course consultant status in the spring of 1990. He's since been involved in a number of major projects in Europe and the UK.

Prior to his invasion of Europe, McMillan had been for nine years head greenkeeper at prestigious Sunningdale Golf Club, Surrey, England. For more than 30 years a head greenkeeper, he has trained on-course 20 of England's head greenkeepers, and authored many articles on greenkeeping.

While a number of high specification, quality golf courses have been constructed in France and Germany, McMillan feels that, in order to sell the game of golf to the French and German masses, they must be able to play at reasonable cost.

He believes good, hard-wearing public courses could be built, reasonably priced, along the lines of the many public and local authority courses in the UK that give so much pleasure to so many persons.

Scotsman McMillan ruefully gives the green fee price "prize" to Pebble Beach, Calif. He played that world-renowned links after parting with \$200. "I thought I'd bought part of the course," he reflected.

The availability of woodlands gives France and Germany an advantage over the UK in course building selection, McMillan said. Dense population and limited space hamper course development in the UK.

One problem confronting the golf course industry in the UK and shared by the courses in the temperate climate zone in the United States is the increase in golfing traffic. Much of this is over winter months, when soil temperatures drop but weather conditions allow play to continue.

McMillan claims traffic has increased in his lifetime from 5,000 rounds of golf annually to nearly 50,000 rounds. This has influenced course condition more than any other change, he said. It also has been the major reason for the great changes in the way courses are managed.

Prolonged heavy traffic during frost on courses with a short growing season and year-round golf leads to deterioration in playing surfaces and causes the greenkeeping industry serious concern.

It is, he feels, the reason for the breakdown in the relationship between greenkeeper and golfer in recent times.

He feels two greens at every hole must be considered to spread this increased traffic.

At least providing a well-prepared, well-managed temporary green would help relieve the situation. If managed year-round, it may be

more acceptable to the golfer, he contends.

McMillan thinks European golf course construction is too lavish. More "bread and butter" courses are the answer, he believes. At present, too many are out of pocketbook reach for the general golf public, he declared.

As in much of the Northwest portion of the United States, many courses in the UK are played hard in a comparatively short seasonal span. Because of the climate, there is insufficient natural recovery time.

Switzerland, he noted, is leaning more to golf, but "tremendous snow" is discouraging.

While there may not be a strong greenkeeper organization in Europe, individuals are surfacing with strong opinions

and leadership qualities. Among them is Jaime Ortiz-Patino, president of Valderrama Golf Club, a course in Spain Benegayfield and others considers the best conditioned in Europe.

Six years ago, Petino wanted to build an American-style course. Green Section's Benegayfield responded to his consultant inquiry. This led to other Spain course projects.

Petino has been quick to lend a helping hand to others golf-minded. He supplied materials, equipment and stolons for the first public course in Spain, being built next to Valderrama in the town of Guadiaro by townspeople. U.S. architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. contributed course aid in the form

of staffers experienced in grading.

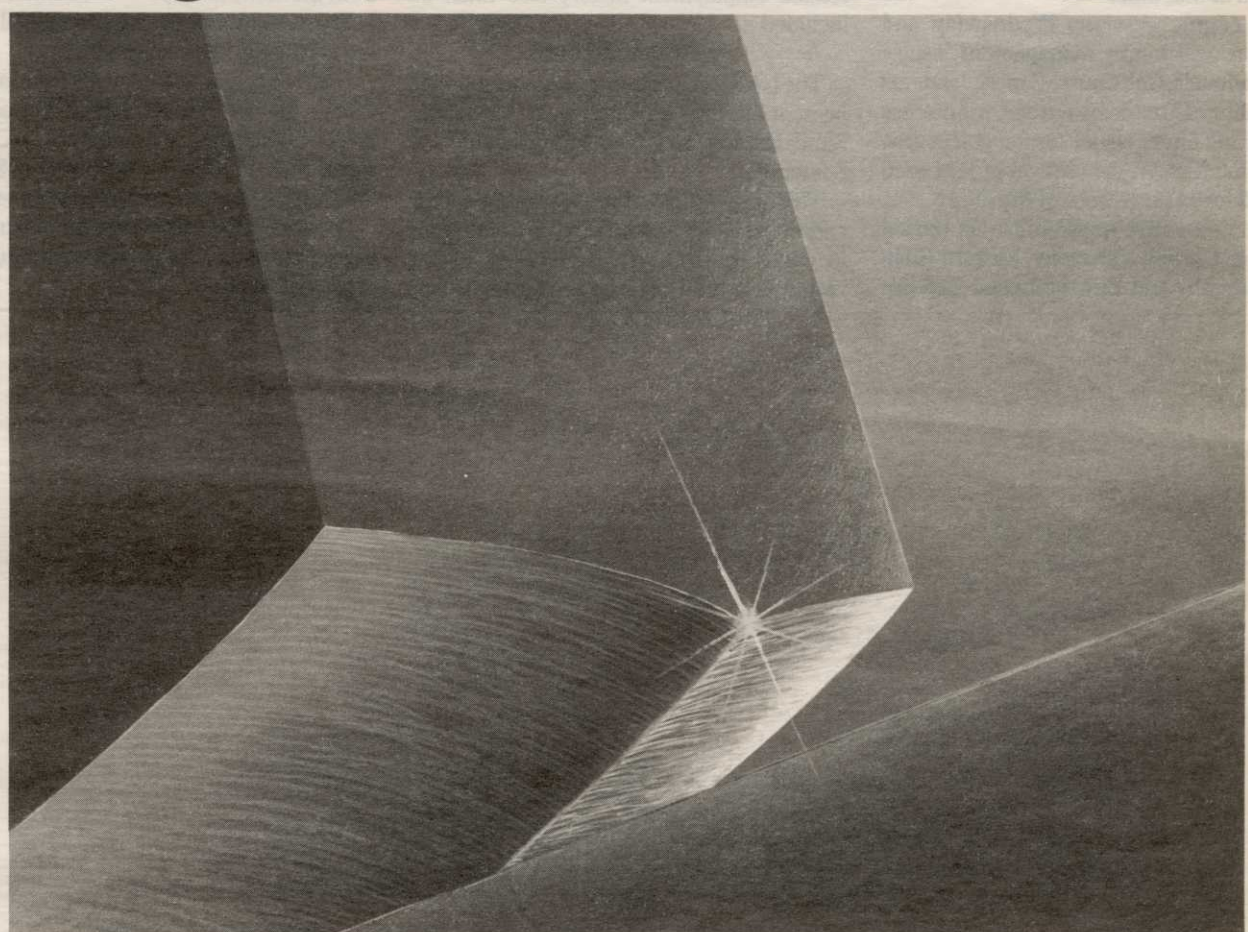
There has been some mutual disillusionment among some Spanish golf club officials and aspiring young course superintendents from America, lured overseas with glowing promises.

Many Americans lacked the background to handle course problems, and others complained of being short-changed financially.

Leading British professionals have taken a leaf from the carefully kept notes of top-notch U.S. pros — South Africa's Gary Player, Australia's Greg Norman, Spain's Seve Ballesteros and Germany's Bernhard Langer.

According to Benegayfield, they are venturing rather deeply into course design.

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