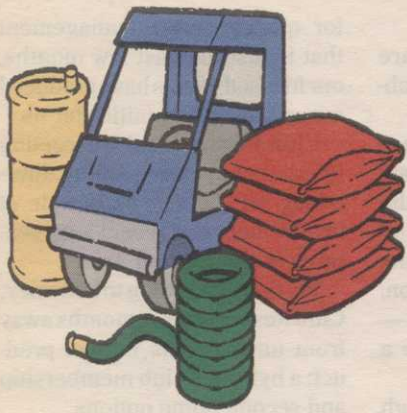


BRIEFS



CENTURY RAIN, BANKS SUPPLY MERGE

Two of Florida's largest irrigation suppliers, Century Rain Aid and the irrigation division of Banks Supply have merged their Florida operations, creating a network of 10 branches across the west coast of Florida. The newly merged Banks outlets are now called Century Rain Aid (Banks Irrigation Division). Century operates 22 branches in seven states, supplying irrigation equipment, pumps, landscape lighting, fountains, and drainage products to the golf market.

NAME CHANGE FOR BLOCK SYSTEMS

MINNEAPOLIS — Block Systems, Inc., creator and licensor of Diamond, Windsor Stone, Aztech and Sahara Stone retaining wall systems, has officially changed its name to Anchor Wall Systems, Inc.

In addition, American Masonry Products, the current Minneapolis office, has merged with Anchor Wall Systems, thus joining the corporate headquarters. The merger means a comprehensive base of services offered to Anchor's customers nationwide. National divisions will include licensing, commercial, DIY/Retail, specifying, research and development, and marketing.

WHEELER JOINS ROOTSINC

Bruce Wheeler has been hired as the western region salesman for ROOTSinc, a division of LISA Product Corporation. Wheeler is responsible for the distribution and sales of the company's ROOTS, ironROOTS and NorburN brand products in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico. Wheeler comes to LPC from the Cameron Company in Palm Springs, where he spent two years servicing the desert golf and landscape markets. He's a licensed pest control advisor and qualified applicator.



Bruce Wheeler

PARKWAY ADDS CONSAN LINE

Parkway Research Corporation has announced the addition of the Consan product line to its operations. Acquired by Parkway in November of 1991, the Consan line includes Triple Action 20, the triple quaternary amine formula, EPA-approved for greenhouse disinfecting applications and for direct application to ornamental plants, grasses and trees. For more information on Houston-based Parkway Research Corporation and the complete Consan product line, call 1-800-256-3668.



After the bunkers at Scioto Country Club were totally renovated, The Placer installed sand at an initial six-inch depth on the bottoms and two to three inches on the slopes with minimal handwork.

The Placer: Bunker work made easy

By TERRY BUCHEN

Bunker sand replenishing or replacement is now less daunting a task for superintendents in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states as an innovative dump truck has been built by the Kurtz Brothers of Cleveland.

The Placer is a material-placement system designed and patented to help use time/motion efficiency and to greatly reduce labor costs during bunker renovation. Mark A. Yoder of Scioto Country Club in Columbus, Ohio, just renovated all of his greenside sand bunkers with The Placer. It was done while the regulation greens were closed for renovation from last August to April 30.

Yoder had the new greenside bunker sand stockpiled in a remote corner of the member/guest parking lot, and the sand purveyor brought a large, articulated self-leveling front-end loader to fill The Placer dump truck.

The Placer was driven to Scioto with

normal street tires. Then the extremely wide, high-flotation tires were fitted for use while driving on the golf course rough areas.

After each bunker was completely restored to its original Donald Ross design — and drainage was added and completely sodded around — sand was added via the 17-foot conveyor.

The conveyor rotates back and forth up to 180 degrees. The dump truck holds 14 cubic yards of material. The system reportedly worked fast and efficiently.

The Placer can also be used to backfill drainage or irrigation trenches; top dress washouts on newly built golf course projects; place critical materials during USGA greens construction such as pea gravel, choker layer, sand/peat rootzone mix, and any other bulk materials used in course maintenance/construction.

Kurtz Brothers, Inc., is located at 4700 East 49th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44125; 1-800-223-7645 or 216-641-9999.

Toro puts safety tips on video

MINNEAPOLIS — The Toro Company and the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company have developed the nation's first comprehensive operator safety education program for the commercial turf maintenance industry.

Specifically designed for golf course employees, the three-pronged program — video, audio and written — responds to the significant number of injuries related to turf maintenance activities. In 1989, for example, more than 75,000 turf maintenance-related accident victims were admitted to hospital emergency rooms.

In addition to human injury, the economic loss can be devastating, said Mike Billings, vice president of the St. Paul Fire and Marine's Risk Management Services Division. More than 25 percent of workers' compensation claims by golf course maintenance employees are mower related, said Billings, who noted this results in an average cost of \$3,600 per claim.

"We're addressing the need for an easy-to-understand yet thorough safety program that stresses how critical it is to routinely follow safety measures when operating turf



equipment," said Billings.

Added Jim Seifert, senior attorney for Toro: "The ultimate goal for both companies is to see a drop in the number of accidents associated with cutting equipment. We want to correct the 'It-can't-happen-to-me' attitude."

The Turf Maintenance Equipment Safety Education Program addresses 28 different safety areas related to commercial cutting equipment. Covered are procedures to follow before and during operation, as well as when merely working around operating equipment.

The information is delivered in a simple-language, multiple-format style which incorporates a video tape, audio tape, written

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Government grant backs AgriDyne on pyrethrin study

SALT LAKE CITY — The United States Department of Commerce has approved a \$1.2 million grant for AgriDyne Technologies Inc. to research an innovative new process for developing pyrethrin, a botanical insecticide.

AgriDyne will match the Advanced Technology Program grant, spending more than \$3 million over the next three years to formulate a method to increase domestic pyrethrin supplies.

Pyrethrin, an insecticide found in chrysanthemum-type flowers, is believed to kill insects on contact, have low toxicity for mammals, and degrade shortly after application. It is not known to produce harmful residues.

Utah-based AgriDyne proposes to use genetic engineering to develop a key active intermediate product normally generated in the flower. This intermediate product — which would then be converted to yield an almost unlimited supply of pyrethrin — is also important in the manufacturing of synthetic pyrethroid.

"Being selected as an Advanced Technology Program recipient represents outside confirmation of our pyrethrin technology," said Eric Hale, president and chief executive officer at AgriDyne. "The grant shows that our molecular biology techniques for producing the active ingredient in a natural insecticide — pyrethrin

Being selected... represents outside confirmation of our pyrethrin technology.'
— Eric Hale
AgriDyne
president

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EPA considering emission controls for maintenance equipment — mowers included

By PETER BLAIS

The Environmental Protection Agency could recommend emission control regulations for construction equipment this September and smaller motorized golf course maintenance equipment next spring, according to an EPA official.

The federal agency will decide by September whether to propose regulations for tractors and bulldozers, according to Michael Scott, public liaison officer for golf course issues. No such regulations presently exist.

The EPA is testing equipment at its Ann Arbor, Mich., facility to determine if such regulations are necessary. If the agency believes they are, the EPA will invite public comment for 30 to 90 days before making any final recommendations, Scott said.

Manufacturers could be greatly

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