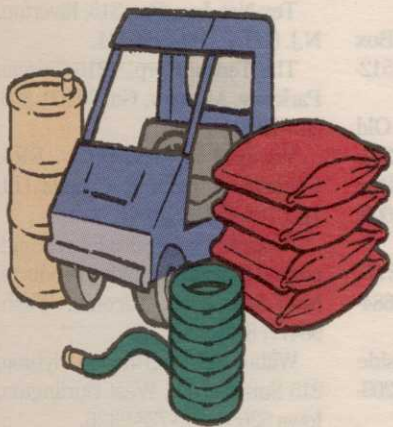


Briefs



CLAWSON MOVES UP AT SOLATROL

SAN DIEGO — Dan Clawson has been appointed director of North American sales for Solatrol, Inc. He will oversee marketing and distribution of the company's light-energized irrigation management system throughout the United States and Canada.

Meanwhile, Kurt Pennerberg has been promoted to Western regional sales manager at Solatrol.

Added to the marketing team were regional sales managers Mark DeLange, southern California; Jerry Zella, northern California, and Mike Deveraux, Florida. Lee Andersen is the new sales representative for California counties Orange and San Diego.

FREUND JOINS HUNTER OUT WEST

Ron Freund recently joined Hunter Industries as its regional golf manager for nine western states and four Canadian provinces. His territory includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Utah, Nebraska, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Freund will represent Hunter Golf products, including the ETC controller and Golf Series sprinklers and valves. He will also direct sales efforts and introduce new products.

Freund was previously affiliated with Formost Construction Company in Temecula, Calif. As a product superintendent, he recently directing irrigation layout and installation at three Arnold Palmer-designed courses in Hawaii: Mauna Kea (second 18), Hawaii Prince Hotel, and Turtle Bay.



Ron Freund

MILLER TO MANAGE SOUTHEAST REGION

Emil Miller has been appointed as marketing manager for Smithco's Southeastern region, according to President Ted Smith. Miller will be responsible for all phases of marketing for Smithco distributors and end users throughout 13 southeastern states and the Caribbean.

Miller, based in Fort Lauderdale, was formerly with DeBra Turf & Industrial Equipment as consultant for the golf industry on Florida's east coast. While at DeBra, he was recognized in each of the past two years for outstanding performance in sales and service.

Backers, skeptics assess mesh-grid technology

By Hal Phillips

Imagine, if you will, a bucket firmly packed with sandy soil. Turn the bucket over and stand atop the resulting "castle" of a dirt. Impossible, right?

Not necessarily.

If the soil has been mixed with soil reinforcement meshing, the sandy soil will support your weight — or so say advocates of this fledgling technology, designed to alleviate divot damage and increase load-bearing capability while re-

sisting compaction. Its official moniker goes something like this: randomly oriented, interlocking mesh, high-sand root zone system (or mesh system, for short). And studies from Dr. James Beard and Samuel Sifers at Texas A&M vouch for its performance in a wide range of golf course applications.

Mesh systems are fairly simple. Thousands of mesh rectangles (50mm by 100mm) are mixed into soil which occupies the upper four to six inches of a high-sand root zone. For their ex-

perimentation, Beard and Sifers used Tifway Bermudagrass. Assessments were conducted four times during each growing season starting in 1985.

"The evidence suggests that mesh elements have an interlocking, three-dimensional aspect that imparts a flexing action," wrote Beard and Sifers in a paper presented at this year's GCSAA conference in New Orleans.

Mind you: This is not a one-piece, horizontal

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THEN AND NOW...

A before (above) and after study of the 14th fairway at the Minami Course on the island of Hawaii, where erosion blankets were employed as construction tools.



Erosion control manufacturers unite

Fifteen manufacturers of rolled erosion control products have organized the Erosion Control Technology Council to take the lead in establishing standards and use practices for the industry.

Jeff Rodencal of The Tensar Corp. in Morrow, Ga., was elected to a two-year term as ECTC chairman last September.

Rodencal, erosion control product manager of Tensar, said there is "confusion in the marketplace" caused by "an explosion" of new products coupled with hundreds of designers and engineers who are specifying erosion control products with no general guidelines. "We want to get the government agencies involved," Rodencal said. "Now we have 50 states (drafting regulations). We want to take the best and standardize across the industry."

The first reports will be given in June by the ECTC's Testing and Evaluation Committee, Product Identification and Classification Committee and Market Information Committee.

Roll call

Allegheny Lawn Products, Inc., 11967 Perry Hwy., Wexford, Pa. 15090; 800-245-2967.

American Excelsior Co., P.O. Box 50678, Arlington, Texas 76011; 817-640-1555.

Atlantic Construction Fabrics, Inc., 1801-A Willis Road, Richmond, Va. 23237; 804-271-3071.

Belton Industries, 8613 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Ga. 30350; 800-225-4099.

Ben Terra America, Inc., P.O. Box 9485, Moscow, Idaho 83843; 800-882-9489.

Bridge Builders/Fox Lake Construction, Inc., 65 Hickory Gap Road, Franklin, N.C. 28734; 704-369-5735.

Contech Construction Products, Inc., 1001 Grove St., Middletown, Ohio 45044; 513-425-5896.

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Label restrictions in store for atrazine products

By Hal Phillips

The Environmental Protection Agency has accepted a voluntary proposal by Ciba-Geigy to add a number of label restrictions to atrazine products and to carry out additional water monitoring and educational initiatives on this herbicide.

The action was taken by Ciba-Geigy to reduce surface water contamination by atrazine, particularly in waters used for drinking. Three other EPA-registered manufacturers of atrazine products — Drexel Chemical Co., IPC, and Oxon Italia — will also augment their label restrictions.

Atrazine is one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States, according to the EPA, which believes an estimated 80-90 million pounds are applied annually. While its main use is the protection of corn and sorghum crops, atrazine is used in the Carolinas to kill weeds lurking in Bermudagrass fairways.

"Some courses in the Southeast will elect to use atrazine in Bermuda fairways when the grass is dormant, normally in January, February and early March," said Patrick O'Brien, director of the USGA Greens Section, Southeastern Region. "It's used in areas where they don't overseed,

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Agri-Diagnostics kicks off environmental awareness campaign

MOORESTOWN, N.J. — Agri-Diagnostics Associates, a biotechnology company and manufacturer of the Reveal Turf Disease Kit, has launched a nationwide promotional campaign to raise awareness among golfers about how golf course superintendents are applying sound environmental practices to golf course maintenance.

The campaign—which targets golfers, greens committees and club members — is unique because it involves golf course superintendents directly.

Reveal Turf Disease Detection Kits are used nationwide to provide early discovery of turf diseases and to encourage judicious use of fungicides.

As part of the campaign, if golf course superintendents purchase at least three Reveal kits by Aug. 30, 1992, a donation will be made toward the placement of an advertisement that highlights environmental stewardship, managerial attributes, and trade professionalism.

The advertisement, which is a component of

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