

RISE symposium extolls benefits of pesticide use

WASHINGTON, D.C. — University researchers, turfgrass specialists and entomologists addressing a recent environmental conference in the nation's capital agreed the benefits associated with pesticide use far outweigh the risks.

The symposium, sponsored by Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), was attended by congressional staff members and regulatory agency representatives who help craft safety and environmental laws. The conference focused on pesticide uses around buildings, on turfgrass and for vegetation and right-of-way maintenance.

Fears about pesticides have led communities nationwide to pass ordinances restricting their use. Last year's Supreme Court decision — allowing communities to pass pesticide laws which conflict with federal (EPA) statutes — has created "a nightmare for industry, consumers and local government," said U.S. Rep. Charles Hatcher (D-Ga.), whose comments opened the March 26-27 conference.

Hatcher said the potential for "83,000 different sets of laws — or even 2,000 different laws — is almost impossible to administer." Hatcher is chief sponsor of pending legislation that would place sole regulatory control back in the hands of state and federal governments.

Dr. Frank Dost, former professor at Oregon State University, said product regulation and registration is based on assessing the probability of risk. Despite all safeguards, he said, "Our desire to live in a risk-free society is unattainable. No chemical on earth is non-toxic."

Other conference speakers included Dr. Tom Watschke, professor of turfgrass science at Penn State University, who said hardy turfgrass filters out pollutants in runoff water; and Dr. David Baker, water quality laboratory director for Hiedelberg College, who said the best management practices in turf production have reduced the potential for pesticide contamination of drinking water.

James named to EPA committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), has been named to the Environmental Protection Agency's Lawn Care Pesticide Advisory Committee, a 25-member group established to provide advice to EPA and other governmental agencies on policy and technical issues.

The new committee — comprising federal and state government policymakers, industry and business leaders, and consumer and environmental advocates — met for the first time May 12-13, in Annapolis, Md.

Roll call: Erosion control manufacturers

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Conweb Fibers, 8146 Cedar Vista, San Antonio, Texas 78255; 512-695-9104.

Erosion Control Systems, Inc., 1800 McFarland Blvd., Suite 180, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35406; 205-759-5154.

Exxon Chemical Co., 2100 Riveredge Parkway, Suite 1025; Atlanta, Ga. 30328; 800-543-9966.

Finn Corp., 9281 LeSaint Dr., Fairfield, Ohio 45014; 800-543-7166.

Greenstreak, Inc., 3400 Tree Court Industrial Blvd., St. Louis,

Mo. 63122; 800-325-9504.

Landscape Supply, Inc., 101 Madison Ave., Roanoke, Va. 24016; 800-876-2151.

Nicolon Corp., 3500 Parkway Lane, Suite 500, Norcross, Ga., 30092; 404-447-6272.

North American Green, Inc., 14649 Highway 42 North, Evansville, Ind. 47711; 800-772-2040.

Partac Peat Corp., Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, N.J. 07838; 800-247-2326.

Phillips Petroleum Co., Phillips Fibers Corp., P.O. Box 66, Greenville,

S.C. 29602; 800-845-5737.

Proseed (U.S.A.) Inc., P.O. Box 1250, San Marcos, Texas 78667; 512-392-1900.

Reemay, Inc., P.O. Box 511, Old Hickory, Tenn. 37138; 800-321-6271.

Research Products Corp. P.O. Box 1467, Madison, Wis. 53701-1467; 608-257-8801.

S&S Seeds, P.O. Box 1275, Carpinteria, Calif. 93013; 805-684-0436.

Shemin Nurseries, 7 Riverside Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830; 203-531-0540.

Synthetic Industries, 4019 Industry Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37416; 615-499-0753.

Tex-Net, Inc., Box 315, Riverton, N.J. 08077; 609-499-9111.

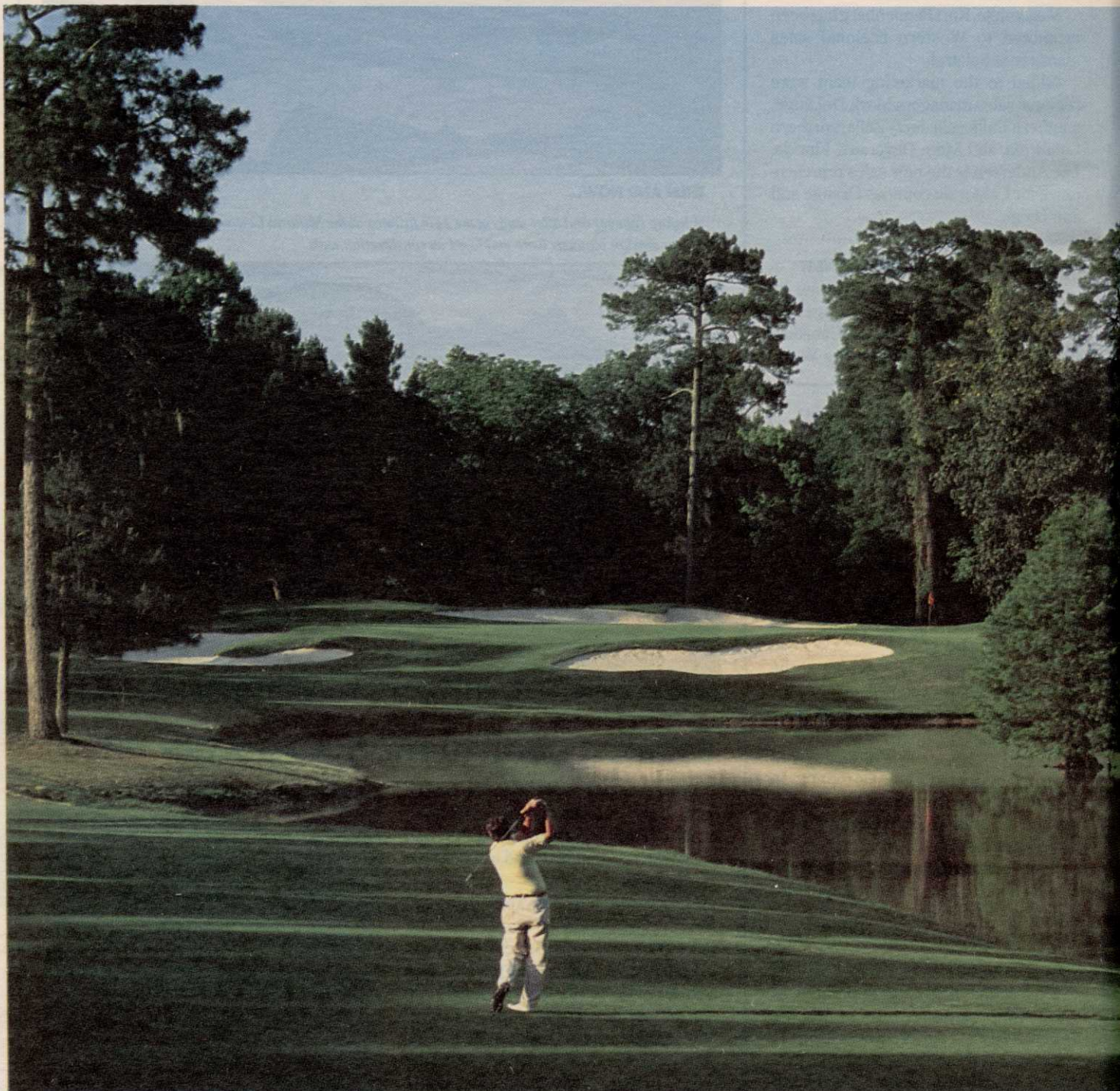
The Tensar Corp., 1210 Citizens Parkway, Morrow, Ga. 30260; 800-845-4453.

Verdyol Ero-Mat, RR4, Cookstown, Ontario, Canada L0L 1L0; 705-458-9601.

Weyerhaeuser Silva-Fiber, Engineered Fiber and Molded Products, Mail Stop EF-4, Tacoma, Wash. 98477; 800-443-9179.

Wilbur-Ellis Co., Brayton Division, 215 Summer St., West Burlington, Iowa 52655; 800-728-9326.

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