



#### TORNADO RIPS MONTEREY PENINSULA

A golfer (left) negotiates a newly formed sidehill lie after a freak tornado uprooted 30-50 trees on the Old Del Monte golf course in Monterey, Calif., Sunday evening, Dec. 6. One of the larger uprooted trees (right) dwarfs a group of golfers. The twister damaged the 1st, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th holes, according to course personnel. No estimates of the cost to repair the course, owned by Pebble Beach Co., were available.

## Six-year drought continues to plague Western United States golf courses

By PETER BLAIS

**T**he early-season precipitation news has been positive for Southern California — site of this year's GCSAA international show — although the six-year drought is far from over.

The Southern California Metropolitan Water District reported precipitation was slightly above the normal 12 to 14 inches for the region for the year ending Sept. 30.

Additionally, forecasters predicted

December weather patterns would bring heavy rainfalls to the coast, an encouraging start to the area's prime four-month wet season.

But two-thirds of Southern California's water is imported, according to water district spokesman Bob Gomperz. And there the news is mixed.

"We've been told we'll receive as much as the aqueducts can handle from the Colorado River basin. But Northern California [primarily dependent on Sierra Nevada Mountains snowpack] is giving us just 10 percent of what we requested,"

Gomperz said.

The Northern California allotment figure is preliminary. It could go higher when final figures are released in May, particularly if heavy early-December snows, which helped snowpack levels reach 50 percent of normal, continue through the winter, Gomperz said.

Does that have the golf industry ready to burst into a chorus of "Ding dong the drought is dead?"

No way, Dorothy.

"It's rained heavily in spots. But the

*Continued on page 35*

➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ **ATTENTION!**

## Golf Course Superintendents and Sports Turf Managers with

# Serious Thatch Problems

Come to Booths 2642-2644 at the GCSAA Trade Show in Anaheim. We have developed a granular material — Thatch-Ex — that in laboratory research, greenhouse and field trials has produced impressive reductions in thatch:

- Thatch-Ex reduced thatch almost twice as much as aeration — 36.8% compared to 19%.
- Thatch-Ex reduced thatch from 40-50% when combined with aeration.

We will be offering limited quantities of Thatch-Ex for sale to superintendents with serious thatch problems who are willing to evaluate its performance within their existing programs.

Thatch-Ex costs considerably less than any of the currently available mechanical methods of thatch reduction.

Thatch-Ex is a carefully formulated blend of organic constituents, sea plants, enzymes and microorganisms. Its proprietary delivery system preserves the viability of the organisms so they flourish under a wide range of environmental conditions and cultural practices.

*Please see us at Booths 2642-2644 in Anaheim if you would like to know more about Thatch-Ex.*



**Emerald Isle, Ltd.**

1-800-628-GROW