

BRIEFS



RENAULT NAMED TO NATIONAL PANEL

BETHESDA, Md. — George Renault III, a disabled American veteran who is superintendent at Burning Tree Club here, is excited about his recent appointment to the Recreation Access Federal Advisory Committee. A director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Renault is on a 27-person committee chosen to recommend "what's needed and what's minimum to get people up and down on the golf course" and other public facilities, he said. Starting July 15-16, the group will meet twice-monthly, anticipating to make its recommendations in six months.



George Renault III

GCSAA PICKS BYRON NELSON

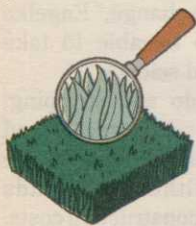
LAWRENCE, Kan. — Hall of Fame golfing legend Byron Nelson next Feb. 7 will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Given in the memory of the Scottish greenkeeper and golf professional, the Morris Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game. Nelson will be honored during the closing banquet of the 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas.

RHODY FIELD DAY READY

KINGSTON, R.I. — The 62nd annual Turfgrass Field Day at the University of Rhode Island's Turfgrass Research Farm on Plains Road here will be held Aug. 18. Exhibits and sprayer calibration demonstrations will run from 8 a.m. to noon and, after a steak barbecue, tours will be given of research plots from 1:30 to 4 p.m.. More information is available from Dr. Noel Jackson at 401-792-2932, or Dr. Bridget Ruemmele at 401-792-2481.

REGIONAL PESTICIDE REPORT COMPLETE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The 1993 Golf Course Superintendents Report, a new publication summarizing what treatments are effective against diseases and pests in various regions of the country, has been completed. The Center for Golf Course Management, the research arm of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is making the report available for \$25. To order it, superintendents should write CGCM—Superintendents Report, 1421 Research Park Dr., P.O. Box 927, Lawrence, Kan. 66044-0927.



Turfgrasses

Researchers breed progress

By MARK LESLIE

Buffalograss and zoysiagrass have both surpassed even the optimistic forecast of an eminent turfgrass scientist who, three years ago, said they would be "the dominant warm-climate grasses of the next decade."

Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas A&M, who was involved in research on both varieties, predicted great things for them in August 1990.

"Over the next six to 10 years, perceptions about buffalograss will change dramatically," he said.

Asked, halfway toward that six-year point, if the two grasses were reaching expectations, Engelke said: "I think we're right on the money."

Buffalograsses have a jump on the zoysias, mainly because of the introduction of the new turf-type buffalograsses sooner than the introduction of the new zoysias, Engelke said.

"There probably is not another species — save maybe the zoysiagrasses — that has the latitude and flexibility and biological resiliencies of buffalograss," Engelke said.

"We have some zoysias that will be right in there with them, but not as good in winter-hardiness. Zoysia can't handle the compaction. Buffalograss is wonderful for compaction. It might not be an absolutely beautiful bright dark-green color. But there won't be a lot of holes in the ground either. You won't be playing in the mud."

Water crises drive use of Buffalograss

Growing water crises in some areas, combined with an increasing demand and desire to use smaller amounts of chemicals, have made little-known buffalograss a marquee item in some areas.

"Sod growers in Colorado told me they could sell 200 acres [of buffalograss sod] right now if they had it," said Dr. Terry Riordan of the University of Nebraska.

Riordan, a key breeder of buffalograss, said improved varieties are "just starting to reach the market... There's been a big increase in [production] acreage throughout the South. About every cultivar of sod is sold out."

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Turfgrass growers "can't produce enough buffalograss," he said. The bulk of the production is still in Texas, but other growers are located in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Alabama, all the way to the East Coast.

"In Texas alone, we are running a year behind what I had predicted," Engelke said. "This past year, the Highway Department has 'spiced' the use of over 5 million square yards of buffalograss for establishment and revegetation of highway rights-of-way."

"That is just now starting to snowball, and we're seeing other states doing the same thing."

Buffalograsses are being grown "in places I'd never have dreamed five years ago," Engelke said. "We released Prairie in 1989 marginally for home lawns, but primarily for rough areas for industrial parks, minimal-use areas. I'm finding them on municipal parks, sports fields, home lawns and in some municipal golf courses — even in the fairways."

In 1989 there was one turf-type buffalograss — Prairie. Four years later, there are 22 varieties — a mammoth increase in a short time, emphasizing people's perception of its prospects.

The national trials, Engelke said, show a number of grasses with "very high resiliency and elasticity to environmental conditions. That's really exciting — to know what we know biologically about these grasses."

He promised a lot of laboratory work will be done on both grasses.

Zoysia pluses: hardiness and playability

Pests. Diseases. Drought. High humidity... None seem to faze zoysiagrass. And therein lies part, but not all, of its appeal to turfgrass breeders, golf course superintendents, and architects who specify grasses for new courses.

"There's a lot of diversity in zoysia germplasm. Some are very coarse and suitable for roughs. Some are very fine and suitable even for greens in some areas, like the lower South," said Kevin Morris, national director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National

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Buffalograss is perfect for Las Vegas-type climates, but four years ago when Greg Nash and Billy Casper designed this Palm Valley course, the advanced buffalograsses of today were not available.

EPA compiles studies on pesticides in ground water

The Environmental Protection Agency has published a "Pesticides in Ground Water Database — A compilation of Monitoring Studies: 1971-1991," a summary and analysis of data concerning pesticides in ground water.

The report — divided into one national volume and 10 regional volumes corresponding to the EPA regions — is a collection of data from 153 ground water monitoring studies in 45 states conducted by federal, state and local governments,

universities, the pesticide industry and private institutions.

Monitoring data from more than 68,000 wells is reported. Pesticide residues were found in 16,606 wells (15,502 drinking water wells). A total of 117 parent pesticides and 16 pesticide degradates were found in at least one well. The 1992 report supersedes the "Pesticides in Ground Water Database; 1988 Interim Report."

The data indicates where ground water

has been sampled, where additional sampling might be necessary and where contamination occurs in relationship to the intensity of sampling. EPA said great care must be exercised when interpreting this data due to differences in sampling intensity, study design, and analytical methodology of monitoring studies that comprise the report.

EPA uses monitoring data as one tool to help identify pesticides that need additional

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