

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

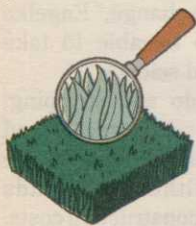
LAWRENCE, Kan. — Hall of Fame golfing legend Byron Nelson next Feb. 7 will receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Given in the memory of the Scottish greenkeeper and golf professional, the Morris Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding 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."

Continued on page 14

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

Continued on page 14



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

Continued on page 22

Desert turf issues being tackled by new Univ. of Arizona lab

Continued from page 1

Kopec and Dr. Charles Mancino will oversee the facility, which has benefited from donations of money and equipment from scores of companies and the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association, among others.

"This is a budding example of how the industry can support the universities and stay close to their programs. And the cost-benefit ratio is tremendous for everyone involved," said Kopec.

The number-one benefit will be

the laboratory's work aimed at decreasing water application to sports turfs by having better techniques in irrigation scheduling, he said. "Second, we need to develop new grass varieties that would use less water than Bermudagrass and that would be suitable as a grass cover. We're not looking to replace a 2-1/2 acre ballfield of highly trafficked Bermudagrass with another grass. We're looking to develop new grasses, perhaps domesticate some naturally occurring desert species into a turf

setting where it would retain 95 to 100 percent grass cover and take five or six irrigations during the summertime at most."

Research on effluent water and secondary reclaimed water for turf will be "a strong part of the program because there's quite a populace being established in the Southwest and the research we do here is applicable to Tucson, Phoenix, Las Vegas and deserts of Southern California," Kopec said.

"There are 500-plus golf courses in this area and a lot of their turfs need this special management."

Weed control is a problem at desert courses in the Southwest, he said, because Bermudagrass is grown in the summertime and courses overseed with ryegrasses and other cool-season grasses from October to May.

Mancino is looking in to curly mesquitegrass, a low-maintenance

grass native in Arizona at 2,800 feet and above.

"For lower elevations, we're looking at buffalograss, salt grass, paspalums and potential domestication of some other range species. Some would be applicable to golf courses," Kopec said.

The eight-acre facility includes 6-1/2 acres of turf. The laboratory structure contains a wet laboratory, office space, equipment garage and storage space.

Crucial to research efforts are the world's two largest lysimeters — 12-foot-deep, seven-foot-in-diameter tanks containing 50 tons of soil on scales sensitive enough to measure 250 grams (the weight of the morning dew) in weight change.

Kopec and Mancino are looking forward to initiation of a new funding mechanism being worked out by the Arizona Golf Association and

turfgrass industry along with Dr. Merle Jensen, UA's associate dean for sponsored projects.

Called the Turfgrass Futures Investment (TFI) program, it would infuse revenue from golf played in the state into research, education and extension programs at the university.

This will provide long-term support for graduate students, technical assistants, research operations, and educational activities. TFI has been discussed for two years, but Kopec reported "a lot of activity" in the last three months.

"The industry has been fabulous with donating equipment. To complete the army, I just need some soldiers," Kopec said. "The game of golf is an important part of the American economy and just 10 cents per round can kick back a 10,000-times-over return on a project."

EPA document

Continued from page 13

study, or may warrant additional regulatory actions to prevent ground water contamination.

EPA is developing new rules to address threats to ground water by restricting the use of some pesticides to trained applicators, and requiring State Management Plans for the most serious contaminants. On the state and local level, EPA's

data base may be useful in targeting resources for monitoring and assessing effectiveness of pesticide management practices.

Copies of the National Summary and the 10 separate regional volumes are available in paper copy or microfiche from the National Technical Information Service (703-487-4650 or 800-557-NTIS). The paper copy of the summary is \$36.50 and microfiche is \$17.50; others vary from \$19.50 to \$112.00.

Correction

Because of a reporting error, a piece of misinformation appeared in last month's product feature on combating dandelions and clover (page 20). Bill Spence, grounds superintendent at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., was not referring to Gallery when he

described a bad experience with a herbicide application. Spence was referring to another chemical used in the 1970s while he was at Pebble Beach Corp. "I am very excited about Gallery," he said. "In fact, we've used it without any problems for three seasons and intend to continue to expand its use in our programs."

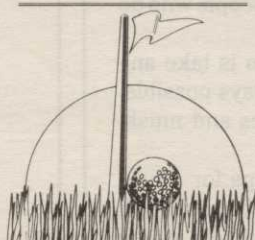
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Artist, Audubon to produce course paintings

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Adriano Manocchia, an internationally acclaimed artist of sporting scenes and wildlife, has been selected by the Audubon Society of New York State to create a series of prints to benefit the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). Manocchia, in association with Somerset House Publishing, will donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the prints of famous golf courses to further the work of the ACSP.

Upon the release of Adriano Manocchia's print, "TPC at Sawgrass, The 16th and 17th Holes," golfer Ben Crenshaw said: "I'm pleased that the ACSP is taking such an active role in showing how golf courses can enhance and protect wildlife habitat. Golf courses over the years have provided valuable open spaces, greenbelts, and natural sanctuaries for wildlife. I am hopeful that the efforts of the ACSP will increase public awareness about the positive effects a golf course can offer to the environment."

The five prints in the series published by Somerset House Publishing feature Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina; TPC at Sawgrass near Jacksonville, Fla.; Barton Creek Country Club near Austin, Texas; Harbour Town Golf Links at Sea Pines in Hilton Head, S.C.; and TPC at Scottsdale in Arizona.



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