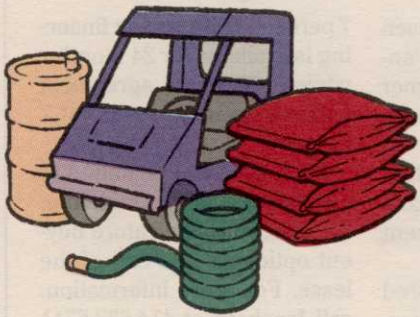


BRIEFS



TERRA PROMOTES PFLEIDERER

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Terra International, Inc. has announced that Larry Pfliederer of Danville, Ill., has been promoted to manager, Professional Products, Eastern Division. Pfliederer was owner/operator of Bi-State Turf, a professional products distributor in Danville, for 15 years before it was purchased by Terra in October 1992. At that time Pfliederer joined Terra as turf sales manager. As manager of Professional Products, he will be responsible for product sales and the sales forces in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, New York.

SCHUPP JOINS SEED RESEARCH

Michael Schupp has joined Seed Research of Oregon, Inc. as an area manager. Schupp will head up the company's Dallas, Texas, operation. He received a B.S. in agronomy from Ohio State University and was most recently sales representative for Van Waters & Rogers. He formerly held the same position for Lesco, Inc.



Michael Schupp

SOFTWARE ANALYZES POND PROBLEMS

A new computer program is available free from Toro. The software analyzes data entered about ponds and determines the appropriate solution to water-quality problems. It is simple and requires no special training to use. It works on most IBM or IBM clone computers. AquaScape, a Toro partner, is offering this program free. AquaScape manufactures a full line of Toro aquatic management products and provides the technical expertise to evaluate pond water-quality issues. For additional information, contact: AquaScape, A Toro Partner, 2611 North Second St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55411; or call 1-800-569-1345.

HANCOCK JOINS PENNINGTON

MADISON, Ga. — Pennington Seed, Inc. has announced the appointment of Andy Hancock as western region turfgrass specialist. He comes to Pennington from Cactus Seed Company, where he accrued many years of experience in the western turf market. Pennington also announced the hire of Kevin Gaskins as marketing director. Gaskins will work out of Pennington headquarters here.



Kevin Gaskins

Rutgers researchers closing in on herbicide to eradicate poa trivialis

By PETER BLAIS

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. — One superintendent's wonder turf is another's weed. That's the case with poa trivialis, commonly referred to as rough stalk bluegrass.

While poa triv is fast overtaking ryegrass as the seed of choice for winter overseeding in the South and West, Northern superintendents are looking for a way to eradicate it from their cool-season turf courses.

A solution may be at hand, according to Dr. Richard Hurley, Loft Seed Inc.'s director of research.

Rutgers University researchers are closing in on a herbicide that could eradicate poa trivialis and leave other cool-season grasses standing, Hurley said during the company's recent 17th Annual Field Day at its research farm here.

"Poa trivialis can be a problem most everywhere," the Lofts executive said. "The seed is

found in the soil, so it is bound to grow.

"The problem is that it has shallow roots. That causes it to turn brown when the weather warms up come summer.

"We don't have it, yet. But someday there will be a herbicide to take out poa trivialis."

Rutgers is one of about 10 universities nationwide with turf breeding programs, Hurley said. Approximately 35 schools are active in turfgrass research.

Development of many of the new tall fescues and perennial ryegrasses began 25 years ago at those schools and private breeding farms, Hurley explained.

Researchers found those grasses during collection trips to old turf stands in parks and cemeteries. The hardiest survivors were cross-bred and blended together to become today's most popular grasses.

Searches have intensified the past five to

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FROM STUMP TO PULP

Hardly a year goes by without a superintendent being forced to completely remove a tree — then the pesky stump. With the gas-powered, portable Stump Grinder from Partner Industrial Products, this task isn't so tedious. Weighing only 44 pounds, the Stump grinder can take the hardest of woods — even live oak — down below ground level. For more information on the Stump Grinder, call 1-800-323-3553. For more new products, see page 42.

Leaving "Big Red" for "Smaller Red"

By HAL PHILLIPS

LOUISVILLE, Ken. — Sometimes security and economies of scale don't measure up to opportunity and challenge.

Gary Shampeny, the new vice president of sales & marketing for Bunton, spent eight years at Toro before moving to Louisville early this year. Not everyone would forsake the imposing industry position of Big Red to scramble up the ladder with a smaller company. But Shampeny clearly relishes the chase.

"I tell the boys back in Minneapolis: If I were still up there, I'd have it made," Shampeny said with a laugh. "I have a lot of respect for Toro. It's a great organization. But I wanted to be involved with every aspect of an organization. Involved in every way.

"Let's face it: There are five players in this business, and we're number five. So we have to approach things a little differently. But it's a challenge I enjoy."

Bunton has been around for a long time, specializing in smaller reel products. But the broad-based successes of

Shampeny leaves security of Toro for the challenges at Bunton

Jacobsen and Toro have left smaller companies like Bunton searching for ways to compete with an ever-diversifying iron market.

The current course involves marketing agreements with other manufacturers, including a pair of British firms. Bunton doesn't make cultivation equipment, overseeders, aerators or top-dressers, but Charterhouse and Hayter do.

"You can't build everything, you just can't," said Shampeny. "Jake pretty much makes everything, maybe not the greens aerator. But Toro has created these types of relationships for quite some time.

"With Charterhouse, we're just building on their strength, which is big reels; while they build on our strength, which is small reels. We do build all of our own rotary equipment. And as volume permits and funds become

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Warren teams with Southern Turf Nurseries

ATLANTA, Ga. — Warren's Turf, Inc. headquartered in Crystal Lake, Ill., has acquired most assets of Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. effective May 1.

Vendors should continue to contact local management for orders and send invoices to that address, according to Herb Hadley, general manager of sod operations. Hadley advised anyone with questions to call Corporate Controller Mark Rundle at 1-800-435-6144.

In a joint announcement from Southern Turf's Atlanta headquarters, Mike Holmes, C.E.O. of Warren's, and Dr. Tim Bowyer, C.E.O. of Southern Turf broadly reviewed the background for the move, and discussed future implications.

"This marriage of turfgrass companies, both sharing the highest standards of product quality and service, creates one of the largest and most geographically diverse full service turf oriented companies in the U.S., and probably the world," noted Bowyer. "Warren's sod production facilities in New York, Indiana, Texas, Northern California and

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ASPA's Summer Convention set for July 14-16

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An expanding variety of new and improved turfgrass sod production equipment will be displayed and demonstrated here at the American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) Summer Convention, July 14-16.

Hosted at the Thomas Bros. Grass Co. Nashville farm, the convention will feature two full days on the farm. The static displays, seed test plots and equipment areas will be opened Thursday and Friday, with bus transportation scheduled to meet the needs of members.

In addition to the business of farm operations, other highlights will include an educational session on Wednesday focusing on the issuance of credit; the annual business meeting featuring reports from the leadership; the election of new officers and trustees; and lodgings at the famed Opryland Hotel.

For immediate registration information, contact the ASPA office at 708-705-9898.

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Research grants totaling nearly \$20,000 have been awarded to four university research bodies by the ASPA. The projects were selected by the Research Committee from

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