

# International Turf Conference promises new scientific data

Quadrennial event bringing together researchers from around the world

By MARK LESLIE

PALM BEACH, Fla. — The upcoming 7th Turfgrass Research Conference will focus on the environmental effect of pesticide and fertilizer use, especially at golf courses, according to the president of the sponsoring International Turfgrass Society [ITS].

James Watson, ITS president and former vice president of The Toro Co., said the July 18-24 event at The Breakers Resort will bring to light much new scientific information on the environmental fate of pesticides, water conservation, pest management, soil fertility, new turfgrass varieties, and evaluating and building sports fields.

He said "until the last couple of years, there has been a paucity of information" on the effect of chemicals. Combined with the turfgrass community's "ineffectiveness in speaking to the public," this has opened the doors to misinformation, Watson said.

"Now there are environmental groups being formed around the world. Many of the people are quite vocal about the effect of pesticides. Many erroneously think pesticides applied to golf courses do harm the environment. The fact is, none of the research that's been conducted in the last four or five years indicates at all that, when used properly, pesticides and fertilizers adversely affect the environment."

The ITS will do its part to unveil scientific information with the presentation of around 135 papers (a record number) and many posters. Some 18 countries will be represented.

"This is the largest number of papers we've had. It's the first time we've had to have concurrent sessions," Watson said.

"Four people founded this organization back in 1969, and it's been very gratifying to see the increase in the amount of turfgrass research being conducted around the world," he said.

Watson called the United States the world leader in pesticide and turfgrass research, especially citing the United States Golf Association's funding of \$1 million a year to environmental studies conducted at 19 universities.

Scientists are also conducting important research in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, Holland, Sweden and elsewhere, he said.

The four founders were Watson; Barne Langvad of Sweden; John Escritt, then director of Sports Turf Institute in St. Ives, England; and Dr. James Beard, "who was the driving force behind it," Watson said.

He credited the coordination of

the 1993 edition of the quadrennially held conference to George Snyder of the University of Florida, chairman of the organizing committee, and Dr. Robert Carrow of the University of Georgia, who is responsible for the speakers program.

Snyder had "great support from Dr. John Cisar, turf extension specialist in south Florida," Watson said, while Carrow has been helped especially by Dr. Bob Sherman of the University of

Nebraska and Dr. Nick Christians of Iowa State.

The anticipated 1,000 attendees will be able to tour the University of Florida's research facility, Envirotron, jointly funded by the Florida Turfgrass Association and state of Florida. Seven- to 10-day tours will also be offered of the Southeastern and West Coast turf industries.

More information is available from Cisar at 305-475-8990 or Snyder at 407-996-3062.

*'Until the last couple of years, there has been a paucity of information' on the effect of chemicals. This has combined with the turfgrass community's "ineffectiveness in speaking to the public.'*

— Dr. James Watson

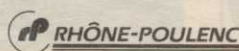


## A TURF'S-EYE VIEW OF

What's really frightening about this vision is that every year your turf is seeing more of them. And it's this increased traffic that's making even your hardiest varieties more vulnerable to disease damage.

That's where CHIPCO® brand 26019 fungicide comes in. With its unsurpassed

control of Helminthosporium Leaf Spot and Melting Out, Dollar Spot, Brown Patch, Fusarium Blight and Red Thread, CHIPCO® 26019 is simply the best investment you can make to ensure the quality and play-ability of all your turfgrasses. It even protects against



Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, 2 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. For additional product information, please call