

## SP Systems brings suit against Solo

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — SP Systems, Inc., which markets and distributes backpack sprayer equipment for the lawn and garden, and golf markets, has filed suit against another sprayer manufacturer, Solo Inc. of Newport News, Va., and its parent corporation, Solo Kleinmotoren, GmbH, for corporate defamation, intentional and negligent interference with economic advantage, common law unfair competition, and violation of the California Business and Professions Code.

In its complaint, SP alleges that Solo made "false, misleading, and deceptive accusations in order to thwart and/or curtail the development of plaintiff's business. Defendants knew or should have known that their accusations of counterfeiting and trademark infringement were false, misleading, and deceptive."

Representatives of Solo, offered a chance to comment on the suit, did not return phone calls from *Golf Course News*.

SP is requesting a preliminary injunction against further accusations and interference by Solo which have resulted in "considerable economic and non-economic damage" in the form of "the loss of actual and potential customers and the loss of goodwill within the industry," according to court documents. The company is also seeking punitive and exemplary damages in the amount of \$5 million, as well as costs and legal expenses, for harm that has been caused to date, according to Ferro Pagliani, president and founder of SP Systems, Inc.

"Solo has been engaged in a malicious campaign to systematically keep SP's products out of the marketplace," stated Pagliani. "The fact remains that there are more than a dozen items of correspondence and legal agreements dating back to 1973 which substantiate our right to market and distribute our products in the U.S. and Canada."

"As SP products have begun to take a major share of the North American market, Solo has acted as if the legal agreements did not exist."



### NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

The Turf Runner 300 fairway sprayer, new from Mid-Atlantic Services, features a John Blue Company ground-driven, variable-stroke pump designed to assure accurate spread, completely independent of ground speeds, pressure or tip wear. Standard features include a 300-gallon poly tank, 25-foot hinged truss boom with fore/aft breakaway & auto set, separate full-tank length sparger agitation, and pressure capability up to 120 psi. For more information, call Mid-Atlantic at 1-800-637-0050. For more new products, see page 58.

## West Coast Turf acquires Foster via RTC

PALM DESERT, Calif. — West Coast Turf, California's largest grower of hybrid bermudagrass, has acquired the assets of Foster Turf Products through the Resolution Trust Corporation, effective immediately.

The acquisition of Foster Turf's sod inventory will enable West Coast Turf to meet the ever-increasing demand for hybrid Bermuda this spring. West Coast Turf specializes in the application of warm season grasses on golf courses and sports fields, as well as serving the growing needs of landscape contractors.

Foster Turf was founded in 1980 by West Coast Turf president John Foster

and vice president Joe Foster, and was later sold to Landmark Land Company in 1985. The Fosters then started West Coast Turf in 1990, whose many projects have included repairing Candlestick Park's field for the 1993 NFL Championship Game and at the Rose Bowl for the 1993 Super Bowl, supplying the sod for the renovation of Santa Anita Race-track, contract growing bentgrass for the site of the 1995 PGA Championships at The Riviera Country Club, air freighting 90,000 square feet of washed bentgrass sod to Club Campestre de la Ciudad de Mexico, and sodding the greens for Big Horn, the home of the Skins Games.

## Jacklin's Dr. Brede joins board of Agronomy Journal

Dr. Doug Brede, research director for Jacklin Seed Company in Post Falls, Idaho has been appointed to the editorial board of *Agronomy Journal*, the official publication of the American Society of Agronomy. Having published more than 100 papers on turfgrass science himself, Brede will have the honor of serving as associate editor for a three-year term.

As research director at Jacklin Seed, Brede oversees breeding and development of new turfgrass cultivars. Recent releases under his direction include NuStar Kentucky bluegrass, Advent perennial ryegrass, Ecostar hard fescue and Pixie tall fescue. Brede also conducts studies on cultural methods for enhancing seed yield and seed quality of turfgrasses. Prior to joining Jacklin Seed in 1986, Brede was associate professor of turfgrass management at Oklahoma State University.

## JacklinGolf, abroad

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firm constructing all four are the Jacklin partners, said Yanagisawa.

"We are 80 percent finished with the joint venture," he reported in early February. "And a branch office will open in Xiamen soon after."

While the parent company continues to be one of the world's most visible suppliers of warm- and cool-season grasses — exporting to 39 projects outside the U.S., 21 in Asia-Pacific — JacklinGolf is making a separate name for itself by leading developers new to golf through the process.

Other seed companies have created golf components, separate divisions that deal exclusively with the golf course industry and directly with superintendents. However, JacklinGolf has taken the most aggressive overseas stance. The firm has maintained a presence in Asia-Pacific for six years.

"We don't just sell seed," said Yanagisawa. "We view ourselves as consultants. We do everything."

"Owners and developers [in developing nations] have no contacts. Seed is often the last thing they think of. Of course, we provide that, as well. The only thing we don't provide is financing and actual construction."

Relatively speaking, Singapore and Thailand are old hands at the golf game, having entered the recent golf boom in its early stages. JacklinGolf was there, providing seed to several courses in both countries. But with Singapore almost fully developed and Malaysia close behind, JacklinGolf is looking for virgin territory.

According to Yanagisawa, the company has already secured work on two projects in India, two in Vietnam and another in Cambodia — all destination resorts.

Does Yanagisawa foresee a day when the tourist pool dries up?

"I don't think so," he said. "The European recession has inflated the economies of Portugal, Spain and Turkey — places where Europeans used to vacation. They are looking for new, exotic places. The market is strong, especially golf course resorts."

"And we have the knowledge — Europeans don't know how to do this stuff."

## THE GLEANER: a core plug pusher



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1. Two section blade will follow the contour of any golf green or tee.
2. Three-inch foot pad coming off blade helps catch and push plugs off greens and tees.
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