

BRIEFS



WATER ABUNDANCE INCREASED

GOLETA, Calif. — An advanced wastewater treatment project has been completed here that can supply three million gallons a day of reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, lawns, parks and other green space. The project was completed by Goleta Sanitary and Water districts, working with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and other state and local agencies. The plant allows the use of reclaimed water and reduces the need for fresh water from the Cachuma Reservoir.



MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE AVAILABLE

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 1994 edition of *The Professional Turfgrass Management Guide for Massachusetts* is now available from the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System. The booklet covers turfgrass culture, insect, disease, nematode and weed management. Among its features are a comprehensive key to turfgrass diseases, a list of turfgrass variety characteristics, monitoring techniques, and suggested threshold levels of turfgrass insects. The books cost \$7 each and are available from Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, UMass, Amherst, Mass. 01003.

JUST ADD SLUDGE

VENTURA, Calif. — A University of California-Ventura study indicates that sewage sludge added to yardwaste composts increases the yield and color of perennial ryegrass. The study showed best turfgrass color rating was in a treatment composed of 50 percent yardwaste and 50 percent sewage sludge.

TURF MANAGEMENT FIELD DAY SET

WORCESTER, Mass. — The 3rd Annual Athletic Turf Management Field Day at Holy Cross College, Aug. 10, will combine demonstrations and talks with the annual meeting of the New England Sports Turf Managers Association. Concentration will be on sports fields. Danvers (Mass.) Superintendent of Tees and Grounds Jack Schmidgall will present a demonstration on irrigation and sprinkler head comparisons. For more information, people may contact Mary Owen at UMass at 508-892-0382.

OTF FIELD DAY CHANGED

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The date for the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Ohio State University Turfgrass Research Field Day has been changed to Aug. 17. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Ohio State Turfgrass Research Center on Kenny Road.

Delhi College joins giants, adds 9 for students

By MARK LESLIE

DELHI, N.Y. — The list of golf courses built, in part, to serve as working laboratories for college students is about to grow by one. Joining the likes of University of Georgia and Clemson and Pennsylvania State universities is Delhi College of Technology, which expects a major boost to its two-year turfgrass program with the addition of a golf course.

"We think this will cut down the learning curve and make our students much more marketable," said Joel Smith, director of communications at the State

University of New York-Delhi campus. "In the world, you don't have as much time for on-the-job training. Superintendents need graduates who are ready to go to work, work independently and get the job done."

"Originally, turfgrass management was the key program," said John Haight, director of development. "But it has grown since then" to include the entire Department of Plant Science, which includes horticulture, golf course operations, landscape architecture and landscape contracting technology. The golf program is directed by Dominic

Morales, a professor of horticulture, who was unavailable for comment.

Dirt has already been turned, beginning construction of a new nine holes at Delhi College Golf Course. Clark Cos., a local firm, is building the course. Collaborating in its design are Michael Haas of Haas Landscape Architects in Binghamton; Michael Ermisch of The Ermisch Design Group in Utica — both college classmates and ex-roommates; and Larry Reistetter's L.P. Reistetter Golf Design Group of Binghamton. Haas and Ermisch are Delhi College alumni and

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Overseeding: The life-or-death decision for many

By MARK LESLIE

Overseeding. It's one of the great dilemmas of golf course maintenance. Do you or don't you? When? Where? For what purpose? With what turfgrass or mixture? What are the tradeoffs?

"One of the paradoxes in the business," said Collier's

Reserve superintendent Tim Hiers, "is a great job of overseeding makes you look like a hero — then. But, potentially, you could have a worse transition" back to the main playing surface in the spring.

There are two categories — overseeding of dormant warm-season grasses, and of existent cool-season grasses.

In the South: Dixieland diversity

Superintendents in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and Southern California — and to a lesser extent in Mississippi and Louisiana — wrestle with this decision annually. Many have no choice.

Some basics:

- It's simple: When winter arrives, in many places Bermudagrass goes dormant or dies, and cold-tolerant grasses can be seeded over the Bermuda until the weather warms and Bermuda rejuvenates.

"They [superintendents] want it [overseeded grass] to come up quick, to be dark green, and to go away when it's sup-

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A member of the grounds crew at Bighorn Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif., scalps dormant Bermudagrass in preparation for overseeding.

In the North: Better bents

Think of overseeding as buying insurance.

"You never know if it's working or if you need it. But in my opinion, you've got to do it," said Jim Connolly, long-time agronomist for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section's Northeast Region who now works at Jacklin Golf in Idaho.

Cool-season overseeding has been popular in the Eastern part of the country for years. But, "west of Chicago it becomes very unpopular," Connolly said. "I can't say why except they simply haven't been exposed to it."

Overseeding in the North
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RESEARCH UNDER FIRE

Browner puts spurs to EPA colleagues to improve peer review procedures

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected by Sept. 30 to have a new peer review policy in place, ending years of hostility with various branches of government and others in the scientific community.

Responding to years of prodding from the General Accounting Office (GAO), which has been calling for better scientific peer review procedures and controls, EPA Administrator Carol Browner has declared the chore will get done this summer. In the meantime, she demanded that her troops follow the peer review process signed by her predecessor, William Reilly, in the 11th hour of his administration. But the Reilly process is considered far too vague and must be clarified.

Leaders in each division of EPA presented drafts of their peer review plans on July 15, according to Dr. Don Barnes, ex-



ecutive secretary of the EPA's Scientific Advisory Board. A group of scientists within and outside the agency will scrutinize those plans and return them for final revisions which, he said, will be in place by Sept. 30.

Reporting that EPA's science is of "uneven quality," GAO Assistant Comptroller General Keith O. Fultz said in February his office was recommending that Browner "set a schedule for developing, completing and implementing agencywide peer-review procedures."

"Also, the administrator should develop and implement controls that protect against the premature release of documents by external peer reviewers."

Requested by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan, chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, the GAO

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Passios named to conservation panel

BARNSTABLE, Mass. — Charles Passios, past member of the board of directors and government liaison officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), has been appointed to a three-year term on the Barnstable Conservation Committee (BCC).



Charles Passios

The panel "basically protects the town's natural resources, deals with wetlands regulations and promulgates town ordinances," Passios said.

The largest town on Cape Cod, Barnstable sits on the Atlantic Coast. Superintendent at Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, Passios is a past president of the Golf Course Managers

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Diversity proves to be the root of longevity in many turfgrasses

The ghost of Toronto C15 lives on, ever pushing superintendents to seek a genetically diverse stand of turfgrass, according to Skip Lynch of Seed Research of Oregon.

The tale of Toronto C15, a vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrass, is simple — and devastating. "It dominated the market for a couple of years," said Lynch, Seed Research's marketing director. "Then, suddenly, out of nowhere a disease started eating Toronto everywhere. Greens were going — everything. They called it C15

Decline — a bacterial disease that the cure cost more than renovation.

"It turned out the monostand was the absolute monostand. There was no genetic diversity like today's bentgrasses have."

Researchers — and superintendents — have learned from the experience. Penncross bentgrass, for instance, is three entirely different plants. Providence is five, Cobra has seven plants in it, Cutter six, Crenshaw five. "Those are varieties, but in the strictest sense blends," Lynch said.

A superintendent "planting bluegrass in the rough will specify three different varieties. Why? He's trying to get a genetically diverse stand," he said.

Lynch added that the idea that a superintendent "seeds a stand once and never goes back is a mistake some people make. But they learn the mistake very quickly. You can always, always improve a stand — whether it's increasing the population of the stand, or by adding genetic diversity by going out and putting in some new genetic."

— M.L.

Delhi adding nine for students

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former roommates.

The new nine holes will join an existing nine-hole track and give students hands-on experience in a number of areas.

"During construction, the students will work right along with Clark Cos., actually constructing bunkers and greens," Haight said. "Down the road, they will get the basics done before we open. Then they'll build bunkers and other work for years."

"We also have a master plan that calls for modifications to the front [existing, 30-year-old] nine," from tee and green renovation to irrigation system improvements, Smith said. "The beauty is, those modifications can be made over time, with no impact on play whatsoever."

"By adding this nine, we're able to integrate the course into the program and build a stronger program," he added.

With the prospects of the new course, Delhi College has already seen an increase in turfgrass and landscape architecture students. Whereas 27 students were enrolled in the Department of Plant Sciences last year, the college anticipates an enrollment exceeding 35 this year.

"We have seen a significant increase in interest, particularly in the golf course operations program in the past year," Smith said. "We relate that directly to the unique projects we're about to undertake."

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If all proceeds perfectly, Smith said the new nine should open in July or August 1996. In the meantime, Haight is busy raising money and equipment for the course and classes.

The school's first Golf Education Fund Tournament raised \$25,000 — half from individuals and half from companies in the golf industry, Haight reported.

The college has produced a promotional video for students and potential donors, said Haight, adding that he is busy talking with companies that are prospects for providing seed, drainage tile, irrigation systems and other items needed for the project.

The New York Turfgrass Association is among those donating \$25,000 toward a hole, which will be dedicated in the donors' names.

"Clark Cos. has 'stripped a gear' to make it affordable for us," he said. "And they have already done the shaping of the greens and tees of the first three holes."

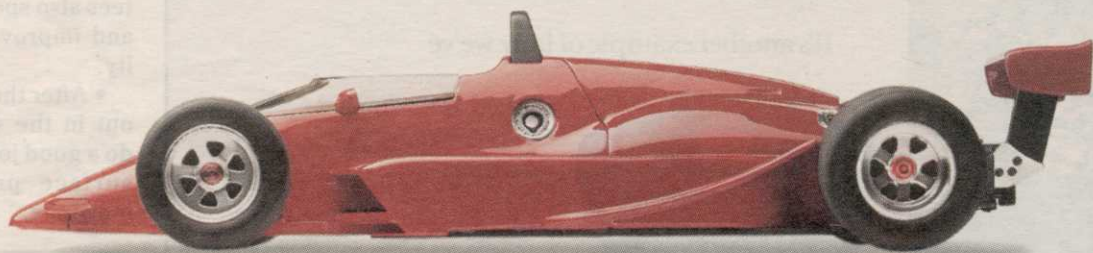
The track winds through woods and around ponds and streams and open cliffs.

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Meanwhile, Delhi is holding a dedication ceremony for its new Turf Education Center at 1:15 p.m. Aug. 16.



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