

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

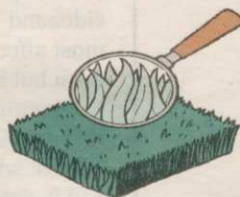
# Browner puts spurs to EPA colleagues to improve peer review procedures

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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# Pock keeps grand-dad's pioneering spirit alive

By JERRY ROSE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The ride around the construction site of Grayhawk Golf Club with Michael Pock may be less bumpy and dusty than the trip his grandmother took as a young girl from Missouri to Oklahoma in a covered wagon — but only slightly.

"With all the water and dust, the windows of this old truck get so dirty it's hard to see where you're going," said Pock, superintendent for the new golf club here. "If I wash them, they'll only look like this again tomorrow. Maybe I should just ride my horse out here instead."

And, don't think for a minute that he wouldn't love to. For all his years in the golf industry, Pock remains a cowboy at heart.

"Practically one whole side of my family runs ranches. And I've done my fair share of punching cattle. I love the life. It's just hard to feed a family on a cowboy's wages," Pock said.

Thankfully for Grayhawk and Arizona golfers, Pock chose to follow his family's

other tradition and become a golf course superintendent.

It all started with Pock's grandfather, Jay Woodward, who sold the family farm in Oklahoma and headed west in the early 1940s. When he got to Arizona, he landed the job as assistant superintendent at Phoenix Country Club.

Later, Woodward signed on as the first superintendent at Arizona Country Club. And in 1960, he oversaw construction and maintenance of famed Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree, where he served as superintendent until he retired.

Pock learned the trade at his grandfather's knee, following him around Arizona Country Club at the age of 5 or 6, changing cups and helping replace sprinkler heads.

At 14, Pock got his first real job in golf course maintenance, working for his grandfather at Desert Forest, and — except for a short stint in the Navy during the Vietnam War — he has been devoted to the profession ever since.

"I've grown up on golf courses in the Southwest, and I guess I know about as



Grayhawk Golf Club superintendent Mike Pock is flanked by sons Ernie, left, superintendent at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City, Ariz., and Jay, a student at Rutgers University Turfgrass School and assistant superintendent at Grayhawk.

much as anybody about what makes them tick," Pock said. "I think the most important thing my grand-dad taught me was to listen to the grass. It doesn't lie. If you just walk the course and pay attention to what's going on, it'll tell you what it needs."

If his accomplishments are any indication, Pock must be one of the best at listening to grass. He was crucial to the creation and maintenance of two of Arizona's most celebrated golf courses: the private Troon Golf and Country Club and Troon North Golf Club, a resort course, here.

"Those two [Troon and Troon North] are blessed with beautiful natural settings, and they are great, great courses," Pock said. "It's hard to improve upon Mother Nature, but [course architects] Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish did quite a job. I'm just glad I could put them in the shape that made them famous."

So, how does Talon, Grayhawk's first

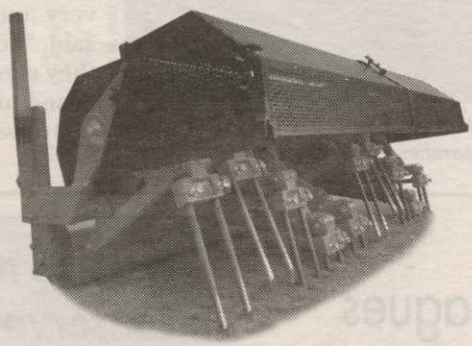
18-hole golf course, designed by former PGA and U.S. Open champion and architect David Graham and Gary Panks, stack up against its more famous Scottsdale neighbors?

"Talon will definitely be rubbing shoulders with [them] and other big-name courses around here. In fact, when it comes to putting surfaces, playability and strategy, we think this course will be as good as any of them," Pock said. Talon's greens will be Crenshaw bentgrass, he said.

And, what of the Pock family traditions? Michael's two sons, Ernie and Jay, are following his footsteps.

Ernie has graduated from Rutgers University's Turf Management School, where Jay has one semester remaining. After a tenure at Simi Valley Country Club in California, Ernie is superintendent at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City. Jay, who worked as his father's

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## EPA rewriting its science peer review process

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report denegated EPA's policy on peer reviews and its controls over documents sent to outside reviewers.

Meanwhile, one former EPA scientist said the problem within the agency's Pesticides and Toxic Substances division, which most affects golf, is not its review mechanism but in writing the regulations.

"Scientific research that comes out of these labs is of good quality," said Stuart Cohen, who worked for EPA for 11 years and is now president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. in Wheaton, Md. "What is in question is, when the people who write the regulations take those and other scientific results and produce regulations. These regulations may or may not stand the test of peer review."

For instance, Cohen said, a group with the National Ground Water Association committee recently reviewed the proposed radon standards for drinking water and "we ripped it to shreds. This was after the regulation was published. And we found that the [EPA] Scientific Advisory Board [SAD] had done the same thing beforehand, but the EPA staff did not incorporate a lot of the SAD's comments."

Proposed regulations, Cohen said,

should be subjected to peer review.

Barnes agreed. "These are the kinds of things the administrator is looking at," he said. "Some people have said we should peer-review how the agency generates science ... and then review how the science was used. That's where people feel there may be a slipped cog somewhere along the line."

One question that would have to be answered is: When the studies apply to regulation, who should review that? "Once you've applied it [science] to regulation, it's no longer just a scientific issue," Barnes said. "It's now a policy issue and so on. So it's one of those things we still have to sort out."

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The GAO report was requested in May 1991, leading to a panel of outside academicians finding of "uneven science" in March 1992. It took another year for one internal work group to begin developing procedures for managers to use in their peer-review decisions.

In January 1993 Reilly issued a peer review policy statement requiring that technically based products undergo peer reviews. But the edict was so vague and general that it "remains inconsistent and not fully effective," the report said.