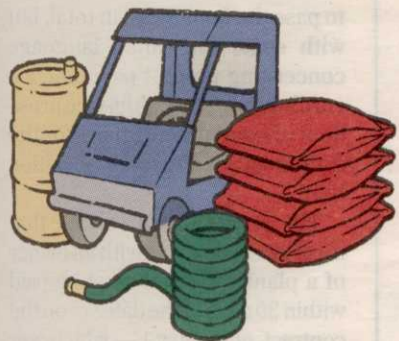


BRIEFS



GALLO TO REP OLSON IN NORTHEAST

SANTEE, Calif. — Olson Irrigation has appointed Phil Gallo to represent its landscape and agricultural products in New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. The Olson line had previously not been available in the Northeast. Gallo can be reached at 203-350-5111.

BROOKS TO HANDLE SCOTTS FIELD SALES

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Ken Brook has been promoted to field sales manager for the Consumer Business Group (CBG) of The Scotts Company. Brook, who has been with Scotts for 23 years in a variety of positions, had been field manager for the Southeast region. In his new role, he will assume responsibility for the CBG field sales organization and sales administration functions. He will move from Atlanta to central Ohio.

MILLWARD JOINS HUNTER IN EAST

CARY, N.C. — Hunter Industries has appointed Bill Millward the new district manager for the Mid-Atlantic region. Millward's territory covers Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Millward will be based at the Hunter East Coast manufacturing facility here and can be reached at 919-467-7100.



Bill Millward

STONEMAN TO PROMOTE ENVIROMATE

Chr. Hansen's Biosystems has named Bill Stoneman to promote its natural microbials and enzymes for environmental applications. Stoneman now manages and directs the Enviromate product line, which includes Enviromate Compost Inoculant and Organic Fertilizer Inoculant — concentrated sources of naturally occurring micro-organisms for the manufacture of compost activators and natural organic fertilizers.

SMITH JOINS JAKE IN N'WEST

RACINE, Wis. — Jordy Smith has been named regional sales manager for the Jacobsen Division of Textron in the northwest portion of the U.S. and western Canada. A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Smith has previously held sales positions with Boyd Martin Co. in Salt Lake City. He lives in Bountiful, Utah.



Jordy Smith

Proposed pesticide reforms not expected to impact application

By BARNABY WICKHAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The government has unveiled sweeping proposed legislation to reform the country's pesticide laws, though changes are not expected to directly affect the golf course industry.

"There is nothing in the new law... that addresses any change in [pesticide] application techniques, equipment or worker protection," said Mike Scott, golf liaison for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "However, there will be a general implication to any users of pesticides. The [Clinton] administration's proposed bill is very significantly asking for integrated pesticide management (IPM) techniques which would apply to...golf course superintendents."

The insistence on IPM programs — something not found in the current law, but something superintendents have been employing for years — was brought about by the administration's directive to reduce use of pesticides, especially those with high levels of chemical toxicity. In addition to reducing the number of chemicals on the market, the program also seeks to promote biological products, billed as "safer" pesticides.

"One of the ways we hope to encourage this is to fast track the registration of them," Scott said.

This increased speed in the registration of certain pesticides raises the general issue of product approval for all pesticides.

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Mechanized creature emerges from depths ... with golf balls!

By STEVE BENNETT

White gold. That's what Bill Serafin of Canton, Mich.'s Great Lakes Golf Ball Co. calls the booty he raises from golf course water holes.

But unlike sunken-treasure divers who may spend a lifetime searching for a single payoff, Serafin and his crews harvest some 20,000 lost golf balls a week from water hazards for resale to courses and driving ranges.

Also unlike the sunken treasure chests that dreams are made of, Serafin knows he can go back to a pond or lake and retrieve new white gold in a few weeks — an endless, renewable supply of sought-after commodity.

A former machinist at a Michigan auto plant, the 52-year-old Serafin fished golf balls out of ponds for many years using Scuba tanks or hip boots. Frustrated with the hazards and limited results, Serafin used his machinist skills to copy the design of a 500-pound slotted roller-retriever that is dragged with two winches across the bottoms of ponds.

Using two golf cars with a motorized pulley system, the roller enters the water empty on one side of the

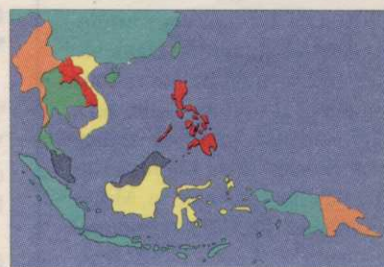


pond, and emerges from the muck and mud on the other side with up to 900 balls caught in its slotted fins. The cars move the roller up and down the pond until it has covered each area twice. When the roller is full, crowbar-like pickers are used to pull the trapped balls from between the roller's fins.

"We did a golf course in the fall of 1992 that Scuba divers had been retrieving balls from for about 10 years," Serafin said. "The course management said divers just pulled 4,000 balls out a couple of weeks earlier. We went in and with our roller collected 18,000."

Serafin sells back to the course balls suitable for resale in pro shops —

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GCSAA renews commitment to Asian trade show

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Citing its mission to further the profession and its confirmed belief the venture won't cost domestic members a dime, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has decided to continue its relationship with Golf Asia.

The superintendents association will again sell booth space to "industry" exhibitors, while Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. will cater to the "commercial" or playing-side exhibitors. GCSAA will also run the education conference that takes place during the trade show, while Connex will host the more development-oriented Asia-Pacific Golf Conference prior to the show. International Management Group (IMG), the sports marketing giant, is the third member of Golf Asia's triumvirate.

A voluble portion of the GCSAA domestic membership has voiced its displeasure with the association's overseas ventures. But at their spring

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PVP Act ready by mid-summer?

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lawmakers and the seed industry expect a new Plant Variety Protection Act to be ready for final approval this summer.

"We're quite hopeful the full House will move within next month to six weeks [mid-to late-July], and then we'll work out differences between the House and Senate bills and have a final bill for approval perhaps by early August," Tim Galvin said from Sen. Bob Kerry's office.

Kerry, D-Neb., last fall asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Variety Protection office to draft new PVP legislation to bring the United States into conformity with a new international Union for the Protection of Varieties (UPOV) treaty. Once a new law passes, the Senate can take the final step of ratifying the treaty — a 1991 rewrite of the original 1978 agreement.

Twenty-one countries negotiated UPOV to ensure quality control; truth in advertising; and enforcement of labeling.

It appears the new U.S. law will pass with turfgrass exempted from Variety Not Stated [VNS] regulations. That would mean grass seed could be sold in bags without stating variety, except within the 10 states that prohibit VNS labeling.

The full Senate approved the PVP legislation on May 25. The House was expected

Continued on page 47

California EPA to consolidate its many environmental laws

By BARNABY WICKHAM

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The state Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has undertaken plans to consolidate California's myriad environmental laws into a single, unified statute.

This statute would organize laws along functional lines that cut across environmental concerns (such as permitting and enforcement), in place of the current divisions along lines of air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste, pesticides and scientific risk assessment.

Although the proposed consolidation of legislation would alter regulation use of reclaimed water, fertilizers and pesticides, Deputy Secretary of the California EPA Mike Kahoe said he was not aware of any changes that would adversely affect golf courses. According to Kahoe, the purpose of the change is intended to cut out duplication and overlap.

A more consistent set of requirements would allow more coordination among regulating agencies, Kahoe said. "This would allow us to be more focused on what are the true environmental risks," he said.

Golf course architect Ted Robinson, a veteran of design in the West, said consolidation of environmental laws to a singular source could be beneficial to the California golf industry.

"The major problem [in golf course development] is that you don't know what the rules are. To find out, you must test the waters, which can be an expensive process," he said.

A task force consisting of legal experts and environmental representatives is charged with developing a proposal by year's end. Kahoe said this proposal should be introduced to the Legislature in January 1995.

PVP legislation

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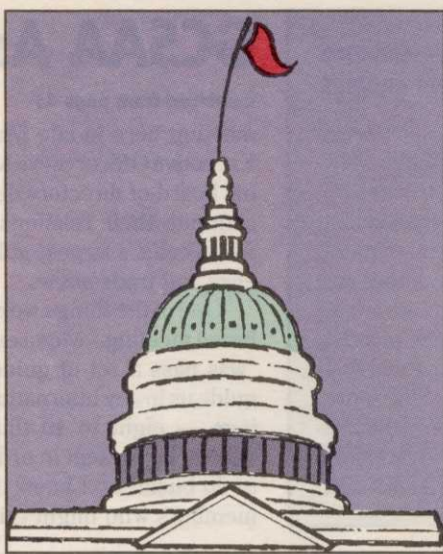
another variety, he must reach an agreement to pay a royalty for, in essence, using their research.

"As an example," said Skip Lynch, marketing director for Seed Research of Oregon, "if you have a Kentucky bluegrass like Midnight which took a lot of years and money to develop... say someone at another company or university took a gene for Roundup resistance and inserted it into Midnight, because of way bluegrasses operate... you would have all the turf characteristics of Midnight and protection from Roundup. You have a unique characteristic for PVP but are taking advantage of all the research for Midnight.

The new law is also expected to get rid of the Farmer Save Exemption. In the past, a farmer could save seed from his own harvest to plant his own fields with. "It turned into a gray market," Lynch said. "As long as his primary business was a farm, he could sell the seed to other farmers."

Companies now won't be allowed to save enough seed to plant beyond their own land.

"The seed industry has not had necessarily the best reputation in the turf industry," Lynch said. "We're sometimes the ugly sister of the turf industry, and anything that can be done to clean up and police the PVP is going to be good for the industry as a whole."



Pesticide reforms

Continued from page 45

Though it doesn't target any particular pesticide, "There is also a good deal of discussion that addresses the speed by which [pesticide] registration and reregistration is done," Scott said.

Scott also expressed the need to speed up the "tedious and time-consuming" process for cancellation of pesticides introduced before the passage of the stricter Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 1987.

Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington, Calif., does not see anything to be concerned about with the proposed legislation. He said he sees no changes in the administration's pesticide agenda to target "bad actors" for market removal and to promote biological products.

Davies emphasized the government has not targeted certain pesticides for elimination. "My opinion is, they are just trying to reduce overlap from a cost standpoint," he said.

If hearings are held this summer, which seems possible to Scott, a new pesticide bill may be out as early as October. If there are no hearings this summer, passage of the bill could carry into January 1995, if it passes at all.

...

The EPA has also proposed the nation's first-ever emission standards to protect public health by reducing exhaust pollution from gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.

According to the EPA's Mike Scott, buyers will experience a cost increase across the board of one to three percent. "Industry members say it will probably be closer to one percent or less," he said.

The proposed legislation comprises two phases.

Phase I, which would take effect in 1998, would require, among other things, exhaust emission standards to which manufacturers would comply by improving the air and fuel mixture for more complete fuel combustion. In Phase II, which is incomplete at this point, the EPA will reevaluate the appropriate level of standards, said Scott.

Barring any surprises, the law will be passed in no more than six months, he added.

Boon to sod growers

Continued from page 1

very limited supply."

"Sod farms are doing very, very well," agreed superintendent Jerry Lemons of Old Hickory Country Club in Hermitage, Tenn., adding that "most all courses are open, but horrible. Some lost 100 percent of their Bermudagrass."

Some superintendents have decided to resprig their courses with zoysiagrass, but those supplies went mainly dry until a mid-to late-July harvest, O'Brien said. Those people hope to avoid future devastation, he said, adding: "Everybody with zoysia fairways in the Southeast — approximately 15 — are in wonderful shape."

"It's hectic," said Richard Petrina, office manager for Thomas Bros., a sod producer in Fayetteville, Tenn. "Everyone wants grass today. But we're scheduling for a week from now. We're running five trucks constantly, plus a leased truck sometimes."

"I've been in the sod business for nine years and never seen anything like this. That January freeze did a world of damage," said Chris Staples, officer manager for North Georgia Turf in Newman, Ga., who added that the spring buying spree follows another at the end of 1993.

Sod companies "are working around the clock trying to get everybody sprigged," commiserated Dan Gibson, superintendent of golf operations for the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation in Nashville, Tenn., which operates seven golf courses. "It's a

FSGC HONORS DAVIS OF R&D

LAKE WALES, Fla. — Ed Davis of R&D Sod Farms, Inc. has been honored by the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) for his years of dedication and hard work on behalf of the turfgrass industry.

Ray Caruthers of Multi-Turf, Inc. made the special presentation to R&D's Davis during the FSGC Field Day, held here in late May at the Gary Resmondo Sod Farm.

mad fight to try to get them scheduled because everybody's after them.

"They don't have enough machines, or enough trained help to run them. They're run ragged. It's a good business to be in right now, but a harrowing experience because they can't take care of everybody."

Noting that North Georgia Turf has helped "a lot" of golf courses replace turf in Tennessee and north Georgia, Staples said supplies were running thin. "We're waiting on grow-ins," he said. "Supply will build back up the end of July or early August."

He said six superintendents have called his firm to replace Bermudagrass with El Toro zoysiagrass sod. Most sod farms did not lose turf because they mow it high. Thomas Bros., however, saw its farm flood and freeze, killing most of its Bermudagrass and a lot of zoysia. To meet demand, it was forced to lease another company's sod farm — Emerald Acres in South Huntsville, Ala.

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