BRIEFS

MOSQUITO MARAUDER

LOS ANGELES — Got mosquito problems? Garlic Research Labs says it has a cure. The firm's Garlic Barrier, an all-garlic-and-water product, is sprayed on turfgrass and is said to last six to eight weeks, even if the turf is watered. "Once sprayed, the odor of garlic disappears in about two minutes," said Managing Partner William A. Anderson. "We call it 'odorless garlic.'" Garlic Barrier is EPA-registered. Garlic Research Labs is located at 3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Los Angeles, Calif 90010; 213-386-5300.

ELECTRONIC PESTICIDE REFERENCE

NEW YORK CITY — Electronic Pesticide Reference, a computer program consolidating the 3rd Edition Turf & Ornamental Chemicals Reserence and two books on crop protection chemicals, has been released by C&P Press, Inc. The program's key features are full-text labels for more than 800 products and more than 1,000 full-text MSDSs; interactive indexes and product summaries; hazardous chemical reporting information by product; and Department of Transportation shipping information by product More information is available from C&P at 888 Seventh Ave., Suite 2800, N.Y., N.Y. 10106; telephone 800-544-7377

MORE BANS ON LEAF BLOWERS

Connecticut and Illinois municipalities are leading the nation's movement toward banning leaf blowers. Passed as noise ordinances or to stop use of the gas-powered models, the laws sometimes restrict their use to certain hours of the day, sometimes to certain months of the year. Among the communities with bans are Greenwich, Conn., Highland Park and Wilmette, Ill., and Los Altos, Calif.

TURF 'N SURF

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association's annual conference and show will be held Sept. 18-21 at Broward County Convention Center here. Golf and fishing will be sidelights to this four-day event featuring educational sessions, workshops, research technology and exhibits.

GREEN EXPO MANAGEMENT UNCHANGED

Despite months of searching for a new management firm, Green Industry Expo officials have retained the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) as show manager. The showcombines the trade shows and conferences of the Professional Grounds Management Society, Associated Landscape Contractors of America and the PLCAA, which has managed it since 1990.

Kansas golf industry eyes golfers as donors

By MARK LESLIE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Kansas green industry has embarked on a novel endeavor with "enormous" potential, aiming to tap into the good will of golfers to raise support for turfgrass research.

Golfers using the GIN Handicap system are being asked in their billing document to donate $2 above their $9 payment to the Kansas Golf Association (KGA). In Kansas, 19,000 golfers use GIN, according to Dick Stuntz, superintendent at Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., who has coordinated the effort through the Kansas Turfgrass Foundation (KTF) and KGA.

"We're small," Stuntz said. "But in states like Michigan, which has 80,000 GIN users, the potential is enormous."

Money raised in Kansas will fund research at Kansas State University. But research facilities around the country are starving for support, having been struck with major decreases in government aid in recent years. Success in Kansas could bode well for similar efforts elsewhere.

KTF members have privately discussed this project for four or five years, Stuntz said. He presented it to the KGA board last December.

Since handicapping services are competitive — and therefore price-conscious — the KGA hesitated to mandate the $2 charge, Stuntz said. But it approved KTF instituting a method to solicit funds on a voluntary basis.

The KTF first sent letters to the 160 to 170 clubs themselves explaining the campaign. It followed up with a reminder in March and with a letter to course superintendents in early April. Superintendents were asked "to go to their clubs and sell the program," Stuntz said.

"They know the decision-makers at their club. We don't... What it will take is for each superintendent to lobby their club to add this amount on to the normal handicap charge. This system has the capability

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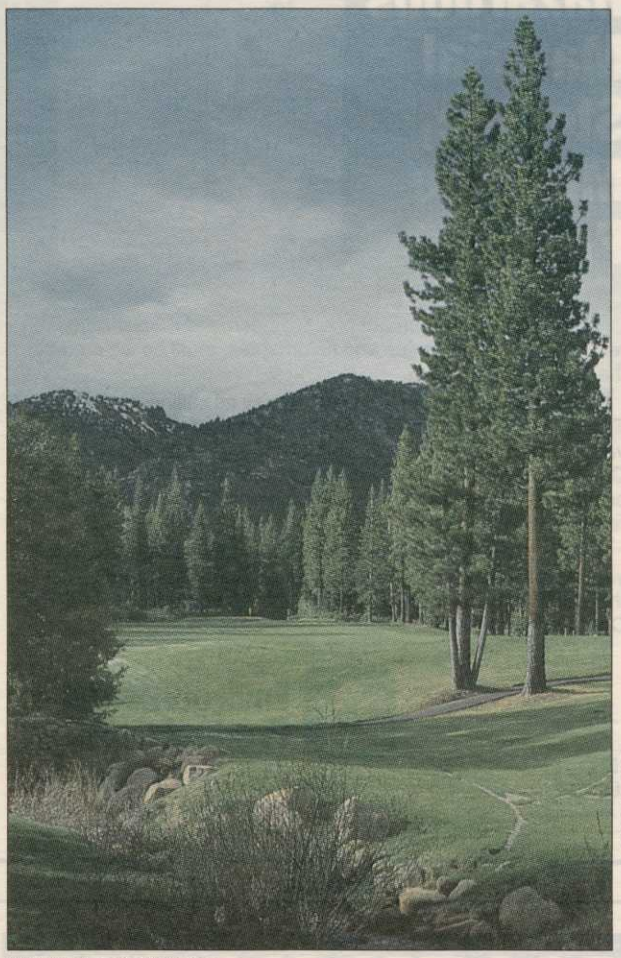

Chris Talbot photo

INCLINED TO CHANGE

Superintendent Gary Skolnik and Director of Golf Mike Hair have spearheaded renovations at nationally ranked Incline Village in Lake Tahoe. (See Super Focus feature, page 16.)

To heck with golfers, cut grass higher, Jackson urges supers

By MARK LESLIE

CUMBERLAND, Maine — Saying every cultural, biological and chemical practice possible should be used to manage turfgrass, yet stressing that fewer pesticides are available, Dr. Noel Jackson has urged golf course superintendents to heighten the cut of grass.

"Everyone," he said, "mow at 3/16 [inch] and no less and to heck with the golfer. Do this and you'll grow great grass."

"Think about 1/8 [inch]," Jackson told the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association. "A grass plant manufactures [by photosynthesis] sugars and carbohydrates in its leaf tissues. How much tissue have you left on a bentgrass blade cut to 1/8 [inch]? Very little. So here it is, trying to photosynthesize to generate reserves so it can push up more leaf, and you come along and knock it down to 1/8 inch again — every day of the week and 20-some Sundays. And you tell me I'm an idiot for telling you not to mow it at 1/8 inch.

"I'm trying to impress on you: Never manage turf to the quality people expect nowadays, without pesticides."

Yet, he asked: "What's happening to the fungicides? Where has Dyrene gone? Where's Tersan 1991 gone? Where have the mercury fungicides gone? What are your alternatives?"

Against Takeall Patch, the immensely effective PMA [phenyl mercury acetate] contains mercury and is no longer on the market.

Against gray snow mold, mercury fungicides "work like a charm." But, again, no more will be for sale after June.

Against leaf spot, one of the best fungicides is Dyrene, but it will not be sold any more. It would cost $5 million to re-register Dyrene, but only $1 million worth of the product is sold a year.

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Soil labs far apart on pH in blind tests

By HAL PHILLIPS

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Soil-testing laboratories have, for the most part, fared well in a blind test procedure nearly completed by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section.

"The majority [of the labs] were very close on all of the characteristics," said Green Section Director Jim Snow. "Certain labs are off on some characteristics. In some cases, they're making some simple mistakes because they're off on both samples.

"A lot of people were off on pH, and it's hard to imagine why they would get that wrong."

The USGA is funding and conducting this blind test of soil laboratories to determine which firms are abiding by USGA protocol, and which are not.

"These are the labs that have agreed to abide by our protocols," noted Snow. "This is the first time we have tried to check and see what they're up to. We want to be sure they're following protocol. We'd also like to be sure they understand the protocol."

Some 13 labs were sent the same two soil samples, independently, from soil-mixing firms cooperating with the USGA. Laboratories were asked to evaluate the samples in terms of infiltration rates, porosity, moisture retention, pH and other factors.

Most of the returns are in, said Snow. Once both sets of samples have been processed and returned, the USGA will compile all the results and take the appropriate action.

"We're not going to kick labs off the list if their results don't add up," he said. "We want to work with them to make sure the

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Professors say mixing can broaden benefits

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Tank mixing fungicides is not a new concept for many turf managers, but they may not be aware of the variety of benefits that the right combinatin can provide, according to turf industry researchers. The researchers pointed out that mixing fungicides with different modes of action can achieve better control of a broader spectrum of major turf diseases, as well as additional turf management benefits.

According to Dr. Karl Danneberger, associate professor of turfgrass science at Ohio State University, tank mixing can solve a number of turf management problems. For example, Danneberger noted that a tank mix

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