

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 Reference 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 show combines 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

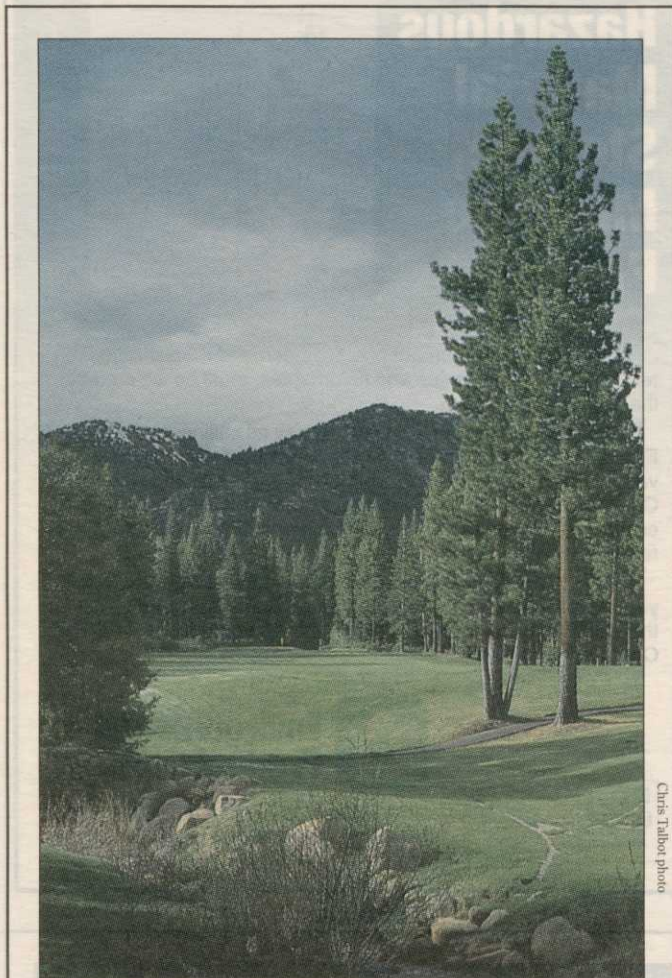


KTF instituting a method to solicit funds on a voluntary basis.

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

Continued on page 21



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.

Continued on page 18

## 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

Continued on page 21

## 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 combination 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

Continued on page 16



# URI professor recommends higher cut — for turf's sake, not golfers

Continued from page 13

"PCNB has good activity versus both gray and pink snow mold, but one year in five it fails. And the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] is breathing down its back, and I don't know how much longer it will be available," Jackson said.

One by one, pesticides have gone off the market, and it has become hugely expensive to finance new products, he added.

Only a handful of new

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

— Dr. Noel Jackson



Dr. Noel Jackson

materials are released each year because of the lengthy, and costly, testing period.

Sentinel has finally been

registered by Sandoz after a six-year struggle.

Rohm & Haas' Eagle has been in the works for seven

years and is still not registered.

"The expense involved in producing a new chemical is increasing exponentially. It takes 10 years, \$50 million, and at the end of it if the rat dies, where are you?" Jackson said. "This is why you're being restricted [in what you can use]. And what you're seeing is, the agri-chemical industry is in a stage of siege."

In light of this, cultural practices will take on more and more importance in the care of

golf courses, he said.

Some tips from Dr. Jackson:

- If frost heaves push turfgrass up, do not roll it. Let it subside to its natural level. "If rolled, you'll ruin it."
- Be very careful to check the pH of top dressing material. "Sand can have a very high pH. Often it's up to 8 or 8.5 That is sufficient to raise the surface pH and encourage disease."
- Use PCNB for leaf spot control and snow mold protection. But do not use PCNB above 65 degrees.
- Check the pH of your water supply. "Often the pH of the water can be 9 or 10. That can trigger Takeall Patch."
- "You can gain two weeks using turf covers. The further north, the more they can benefit."

But the problem with turf covers, he said, is knowing when to put them down and pull them off.

"If you gamble wrong, you're in big trouble. If you take it off and the temperature drops, you're worse off than if you never used the cover," he said.

## U-Nebraska grad student given '94 Musser Scholarship

Jennifer M. Johnson-Cicalese has been awarded the Musser Foundation's 1994 Doctoral Award for Excellence.

The \$5,000 annual award is given to a student in the last year of their doctoral program who "demonstrates leadership in academic and extracurricular activities."

Johnson-Cicalese, 36, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Rutgers University

and is preparing her doctoral thesis at the University of Nebraska on resistance to mealybugs among turf-type buffalograss selections. Drs. Terry Riordan and Frederick Baxendale are her major professors.



Johnson-Cicalese

"Professor Burton Musser was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades at Penn State University," said foundation President Frank Dobie of The Sharon Club in Sharon Center, Ohio. "The foundation ... is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual. Supporting this new generation of turfgrass scientists is the wisest move we can make."

Some \$57,000 has been awarded the past six years, Dobie said.

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