

BRIEFS



PESTICIDE GUIDE PUBLISHED

FRESNO, Calif. — The Users Reference Guide to Pesticides, aimed at agricultural and horticultural users, has been released by Thomson Publications. The 200-page book lists products registered in the United States by generic name, followed by different formulations with their tank-mix, adjuvant and compatibility recommendations. It is available from Thomson at P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, Calif. 93791; telephone 209-435-2163.

ASHS ELECTS CLEMSON'S KELLY

CLEMSON, S.C. — The head of Clemson University's Horticulture Department has been chosen research vice president-elect for the American Society for Horticultural Science. Dr. John Kelly was elected by the ASHS membership for his outstanding leadership, involvement in the ASHS and professional accomplishments. He will begin his term in July 1995. Kelly has been a professor at Clemson for nine years and department head since 1991. He also is director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden.

TESTS CONFIRM TURF COVERS HELP

Turf development research conducted at Texas A&M University is the subject of a new report from Contech Construction Products Inc. Results of the studies confirm that sensitive turfgrasses can be readily protected



against winter elements. One of the objectives of the research conducted by Dr. M.C.

Engelke, associate professor of turfgrass breeding, was to reduce winter dormancy for the emergence of healthier turf after winter seasons. Free copies of the report are available from Contech, Dept. GICH-102, 33 Greenwood Lane, Springboro, Ohio 45066; telephone 800-338-1122 (in Ohio, 800-752-8899).

SOD HOTLINE INSTALLED

Turf Resource Center, a toll-free telephone service, now is available to the American Sod Producers Association's office. The phone (1-800-405-TURF) emphasizes ASPA's developing public relations and education program. Organizations, publications and individuals will be able to obtain listings of sod producers in their area of interest, tips on sodding, and information for possible articles or other facts related to the sod industry specifically, or turfgrass generally.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Winter kill serves spring wake-up call to mid-Atlantic Coast supers

By DIANE MILLER

In the wake of the most severe winter since 1977-78, golf course superintendents from Maryland to New York are reporting the loss of as much as 30 percent of their turf on greens and up to 70 percent on fairways, and some may not open until "well into May."

The blanket of ice and snow that kept area courses closed for as long as two to three months prevents gas exchange around the glass plants, in effect smothering the plant. Superintendents are discovering that under the layers of ice the turf is rotting and black in some areas, giving off a powerful stench once the ice is removed.

Winter injury, including extensive winter kill of poa annua and perennial ryegrass, extends from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., through the Philadelphia area, central and northern New Jersey, and into the Pocono Mountains, according to the U.S. Golf Association Green Section. Much heavier than normal snow mold damage is

being reported through Ohio and Kentucky.

More than 200 golf course superintendents, assistants, greens chairmen, club officials, and course owners from the New Jersey/Philadelphia area met on March 28 at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield, N.J., to discuss the ramifications of the severe damage.

The joint meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey (GCSANJ) and the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents (PAGCS) opened the line of communication between superintendents, club officials and the USGA.

Jim Sklorusky, Northeast Region agronomist for the USGA, discussed previous years' damage from upstate New York and Montreal. David Oatis, director of the Green Section's Northeast Region, discussed communication with club membership and talked about what superintendents can expect during the

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Judge: Golf balls belong to golfers

Golf balls driven into a lake belong to the original owner, according to a ruling by a judge in Vancouver, Canada.

The decision came in a case prompted by a youth who was retrieving balls from a water hazard. He was accused of stealing the balls, but the judge ruled the balls belong to the golfers, not the course.

Mayfair Lakes Management Corp. maintains a contract with a scuba diving company to recover balls lost in its lake. These balls are valued at more than \$19,000 a year.

The course is considering requiring a waiver from golfers, who would relinquish ownership of balls lost in the lake.



Fourth-grade students take 'teacher' Moore to school



Botany bottle an everyday help

By JIM MOORE

Traveling around the country with the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, meeting out advice to turfgrass professionals, I was surprised when I left my son's fourth-grade class having learned an important lesson myself — one I apply extensively to my research now.

In the midst of my visit, the students showed me the terrariums (they call them "botany bottles") they made out of old two-liter soda bottles.

Turns out, the terrariums are the perfect size for samples I remove from golf greens with a cup cutter to try and

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Jim Moore is a United States Golf Association Green Section agronomist, director of the Mid-Continent region. He lives in Waco, Texas.



COMMENTARY

Travel, turf trouble the consultant's lot

By JIM MOORE

Traveling around the Mid-Continent region, looking at golf courses, trying to figure out what is happening where, the endless writing of Turfgrass Advisory Service (TAS) reports, and way too many fast-food meals. Running in airports, standing in lines, glaring at the jerks who ignore boarding instructions, getting lost everywhere, and figuring out how to turn the lights on in twenty different rental cars.

On the more serious side, there is worrying about the superintendent and course

that are in trouble, wishing you could come up with a magic cure, dealing with the clubs that want more but simply can't fund the improvements, and the constant balancing act between spending time "on the road" and trying to find more time to spend with the family.

After nine years of dealing with these challenges, I have decided the only means of survival (only 20 years to go) is to

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Mount Pinatubo fallout

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust at Clark AFB course

By HAL PHILLIPS

ANGELES, The Philippines — When Mount Pinatubo blew its top here in October 1991, a layer of ash blanketed the 18 holes at nearby Clark Air Force Base, which soon closed its doors for good. In the frenzied retreat from lava and ash, the course suffered another indignity. It was looted: irrigation heads, cups, yardage markers, even door knobs were stolen.

Things have turned around at the site, as

a private corporation — Mondragon International Philippines Inc. — will refurbish the course to anchor a new destination resort. But the ash — which Filipinos call lahar — has created an agronomic poser for turf consultant Neil Noble and Honolulu-based architects Nelson, Wright, Hawthorn.

"They've got a real good loam underneath, but there's a four-inch layer of ash on top of everything," said Noble, an

Ohio State graduate who heads Honolulu-based Environmental Turf Systems.

"The ash is real sandy because this bit fell so close to the actual volcano [about 15 miles]. From a water filtration standpoint, the eruption basically top-dressed the whole site.

"I tested the ash and came up with high levels of phosphorus, potassium and calcium," Noble continued, "which are

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Ashes to ashes at Clark

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usually lacking in tropical soils. There were no toxic levels, which surprised me. There was a little copper, but nothing significant."

"But any time you have different soils you have an interface problem. It's like a perched water table in a green, which might cause root zone problems. This should affect water movement until they break up the ash and mix it all together."

"The ash is basically a soil amendment."

Architect Robin Nelson — whose firm has designed courses directly on top of cooled lava — will add nine holes and give the original 18 a complete makeover. The ash has affected the project, he said, but it's nothing he and Noble can't handle.

"The ash has pretty much been dragged off and stockpiled in the rough," said Nelson. "The only problem comes if the ash solidifies in a single layer. But we plan to mix it right in with the soil."

"It's a great site. A lot of huge monkey paws, which are acacia trees... There's also a ravine that runs through the entire site and is completely filled with ash. It will become a huge sandy waste area when we're done."

The irrigation system will be designed to deal with the "unlikely event" of another eruption at Pinatubo, said Nelson. While no manner of rotor can deal effectively with flowing lava, the Clark course will be equipped with an extremely powerful irrigation system.

"Basically," Nelson said, "we're going to have fire hydrants so you can blow the ash off the course."

'Par for the Course' gets pro-environment word out

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — There is a new entry among the myriad golf-related, 30-minute TV shows that now dot the cable landscape.

"Par for the Course," produced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), made its debut in late March and can be seen in syndication on the PRIME Network. The half-hour show will concentrate on golf's

environmental attributes and other course management issues, in addition to features on etiquette, rules, instruction, places to play, and trends shaping golf's future.

The series will run 13 weeks on PRIME, which is distributed to 22 regional sports networks nationwide, serving more than 40 million subscribers. Its global division, Prime International, feeds programming to affiliates in Asia, Europe and South America. So far, 19 of PRIME's 22 affiliates have agreed to air "Par for the Course."

"We're pleased with it," said GCSAA Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Steve Mona. "Obviously, it's a little too early to tell how it's being received. Our audience is the average golfer and we haven't had a lot of contact with him yet."

"But when we met with our members in Dallas, we gave them a sneak preview and they liked it."

Scott Smith, GCSAA public relations manager, is also co-producer of "Par for the Course." Smith's co-producer and the show's host is Duke Frye, a former sports anchor at KPRC-TV, Houston. He also hosts and produces programs for the Kansas City Royals Television Network and provides occasional play-by-play for PRIME.

According to Smith — who also boasts experience as a writer/producer of video, film and cable programs — the entire series will carry a price tag of "less than \$200,000."

"It's a substantial investment," said Mona. "But we feel like it's money we need to spend. We have to get the word out and TV's the medium that allows us to do that with the most people. The average, rank-and-file, 15-handicap golfer only has a vague idea of what our members do."

"We're not trying to promote our organization. We want to give the public a better understanding of what our members do."

The April edition of "Par for the Course," for example, included a feature on the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program; a new product that bills itself as an alternative to metal golf spikes; golf instruction with Larry Nelson; and rules segment hosted by USGA rules official Herb Stevens.

United States Golf Association Green Section Director Jim Snow made a cameo appearance and at least five GCSAA members were quoted as experts on turf care and wildlife protection.

"We feel like we have educated, articulated members," said Mona. "That's part of this whole push. We have people out there who are the stewards of the club's greatest asset, and that should be appreciated."

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