

## Plant growth regulator fares well in waste study

PATERSON, N.J. — Passaic County (N.J.) officials have released results of a program geared toward reducing the amount of grass clippings entering landfills. "Grass—Cut It and Leave It" is part of a larger yard waste management effort to reduce total solid waste.

Ciba and its turf growth management tool, Primo, agreed to sponsor the Passaic County program in exchange for help in testing the new product.

"Passaic County has taken the initiative to significantly reduce the amount of solid waste, and

yard waste management is an important step in the right direction for us," said B. Ellie Arnould, solid waste programs coordinator. "The county had realized sizable reductions in the amount of grass clippings before the plant growth regulator (PGR) became part of the program. With this type of product added as an integral part of the program, we've seen an even larger reduction."

Professional applicators applied plant growth regulator to more than 20 acres of turf in a variety of settings, including a golf course, corporate land-

scapes, municipal properties, historic sites and private residences. On the golf course, the maintenance staff did not decrease the number of mowings, yet noted a 50-percent reduction in the amount of time spent mowing because of fewer clippings. On the other properties, the number of mowings decreased from between 50 percent and 62.5 percent.

Bruce Van Dyne, organics management specialist with the Passaic County Office of Recycling and Solid Waste Programs, estimates that a 5,000- to 6,000-square-foot turf area produces one ton of grass clippings during an entire growing season. Based on an average of 25 mowings per year, each mowing produces 80 pounds of clippings. This equates to 640 pounds during an eight-week evaluation period. On the PGR-treated areas in this program, the average clipping reduction during the eight weeks was nearly 60 percent, or 400 pounds.

"Yard waste accounts for about 20 percent of Passaic County's total waste stream, and that is fairly typical nationwide," says Scott Moffitt, Ciba product manager.

### RGF NAMES REGIONAL REPS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — RGF Environmental Systems, Inc., a member of RGF Environmental Group based here, has appointed several new golf and turf representatives: Pan Pacific Turf Supply in Honolulu, Hawaii; Simpson & Norton with locations in Goodyear, Ariz. and Las Vegas, Nev.; and South West Toro in Albuquerque, N.M. The new appointments will allow RGF to expand representation, customer service and distribution in the U.S. market.

## Shop Talks debut at Golf Course Expo

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attend "Shop Talks" free of charge, as part of Golf Course Expo. During these unique sessions — held right on the show floor — trade show attendees are invited to hear in-depth discussions from exhibitors on the use of their products.

Scheduled for Nov. 11-12, here at the Orange County Convention Center, Golf Course Expo is sponsored by *Golf Course News*, with cooperation from the National Golf Foundation and United States Golf Association. Golf Course Expo is the only national trade show and education conference devoted to superintendents, managers, owners and developers of public-access golf facilities.

Arnold Palmer will keynote the event at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11, while course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. will keynote the next day. The trade show will run all day, both days, while concurrent educational sessions will be held in the afternoons.

"Shop Talks" are ideal opportunities for vendors to introduce new products, demonstrate a product, or provide a technical briefing. Prospective buyers have the opportunity to ask questions while vendors, with their answers, can help attendees sort through the claims of competing firms.

"I think this a great idea," said Don Smith, president of Smithco, a manufacturer of utility vehicles and an exhibitor at Golf Course Expo.

Smithco's Southeast sales representative, Emil Miller, is scheduled to give a "Shop Talk" on environmentally friendly spraying techniques.

"Emil's topic is going to be, 'How to save money in spraying by following environmental regulations.' Sort of a twist," Smith said. "Everyone thinks regulations add cost. But they don't have to."

"We provide spraying equipment, of course, and he'll incorporate it into his talk. The idea is to keep it pretty general. We will certainly mention our products. But the idea is to play it down the middle... I think they can read into something that's a promotion, something that has no substance. And we want to be on the substance side."

Other "Shop Talks" include Kohler's Joe Schreiner speaking on gas engine development, and Aimcor's Lou Haines discussing solutions to chronic soil problems.

"Shop Talks" are designed to complement the two-day education conference at Golf Course Expo. The conference program, which does carry a fee of \$295, includes three in-depth education tracks: Maintenance, Development, and Marketing & Management. Conferees can earn continuing education credits (CEUs) from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America by attending.

For more information on exhibiting and attending Golf Course Expo, call the Expo Hotline at 207-846-0600.

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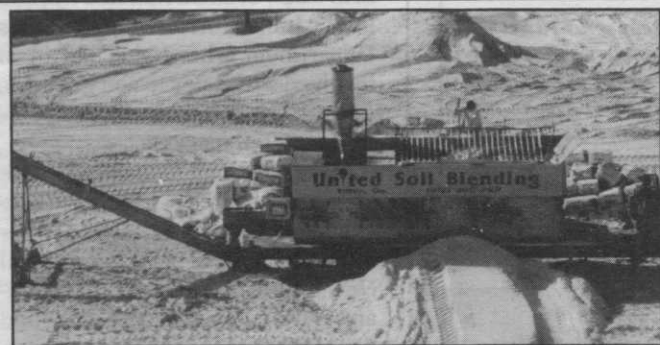
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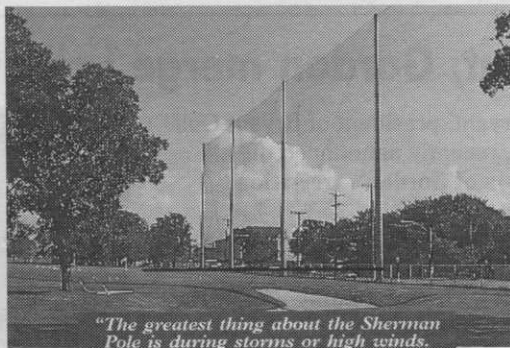
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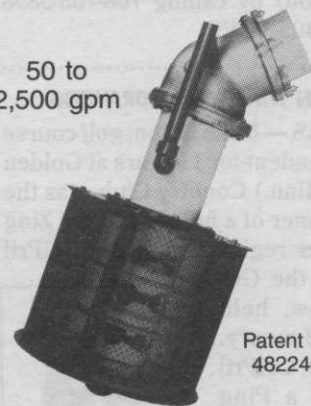
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