

BRIEFS



NATURE'S CHOICE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Nature's Choice is the theme of the 1995 Southwest Horticultural Trade Show at Phoenix Civic Plaza here, Sept. 7-8. The Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will present educational sessions on the overall topic Turf Stress Management. More information is available from the Arizona Nursery Association at 1430 W. Broadway, Suite A125, Tempe, Ariz. 85282; 602-966-1610.

NORTH OF THE BORDER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) will hold its 47th Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre here, March 2-5. More information is available from Andrea Franks at CGSA, 5580 Explorer Dr., Suite 509, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4Y1; 905-602-8873.

BLEIER HIGHLIGHTS N.Y. CONCLAVE

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Rocky Bleier, former Pittsburgh Steeler, will headline the four-day annual educational conference and trade show cosponsored by the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) and Cornell University. The keynote is scheduled for Nov. 8, at 9 a.m. As an added feature, pesticide recertification credits from several states and continuing education credits for national associations are available for conference attendance. For more information contact the NYSTA at 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

CONTAINMENT SYSTEM DESIGN

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Published by Advanstar Communications, "Containment System Design: Chemical Storage, Mixing and Recycling" by Fredric R. Haskett contains information that will allow operators to design and construct an affordable, viable and safe facility to store, handle, mix and recycle pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals. It explains how to prepare for the scrutiny of government regulators and comply with new regulations; explores the legal implications of noncompliance; and discusses the cost of recycling finished product residues versus the cost of having them disposed of by an outside agency. Containment System Design costs \$74.95. Copies can be ordered by calling 1-800-598-6008.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Wildlife studies complement one another

Audubon investigating from the point of view of sustainable resources

By MARK LESLIE

SELKIRK, N.Y. — In fortuitous timing for an industry seeking wisdom about golf's environmental impact, the Audubon Society of New York (ASNY) is undertaking a wildlife study that dovetails with the U.S. Golf Association's (USGA) Wildlife Links program overseen by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"This came about at a fortunate time because I was in the process of instituting the Audubon Center for Sustainable Resource Management (ACSRM)," said ASNY President Ron Dodson.

Wildlife Links and ACSR

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The impact of golf courses on deer and other wildlife is the subject of more intense study.

USGA-backed Wildlife Links using a more broad-brush approach

By MARK LESLIE

FAR HILLS, N.J. — The first fruits of the U.S. Golf Association-sponsored Wildlife Links Program will be two publications providing golf course superintendents hands-on information "to make their facilities more environmentally in-tune," according to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Undergoing a name change from Nature Links because of a near-conflict with another group's program, Wildlife Links was birthed to promote courses as friendly homes for wildlife and to attract support from environ

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Experts urge aggressive defense vs. Lyme disease

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Despite more than a decade of public awareness, the number of reported Lyme disease cases remains high, and some experts are now recommending a more aggressive approach for controlling the ticks that carry this potentially debilitating disease.

Many medical health-care experts and university extension offices now urge homeowners in high-risk areas to treat their lawns and lawn peripheries with an insecticide to reduce populations of the ticks which vector this disease. The primary vector of Lyme disease is the deer tick, also known as the black-legged tick.

Although ticks are most commonly found in wooded, overgrown and weedy areas, many Lyme disease victims are bitten by ticks in their own yards, and the use of protective clothing and insect repellent alone have not been successful in checking the spread of the disease. In 1994, more than 10,000 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in the United States, according to the national Centers For Disease Control (CDC). More than 57,000 cases of Lyme disease have been reported since recording of these cases first began (1982-1993).

In high-risk areas, such as the Northeast coastal states, North Central states

and parts of the West Coast, an application of a commonly used home insecticide can help reduce deer tick nymphs and adults in home lawns and lawn peripheries by up to 95 percent.

Although symptoms are sometimes absent, Lyme disease is usually initially characterized by the presence of a bull's-eye shaped rash at the site of the tick bite, followed by fever, headache, fatigue and pain in the muscles and joints. Although it is treatable with antibiotics, if left untreated, the disease may result in double vision, chronic arthritis, meningitis, hearing loss, cardiac problems, memory loss

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No Dutch treat for elm lovers

By DAVID M. ROSE

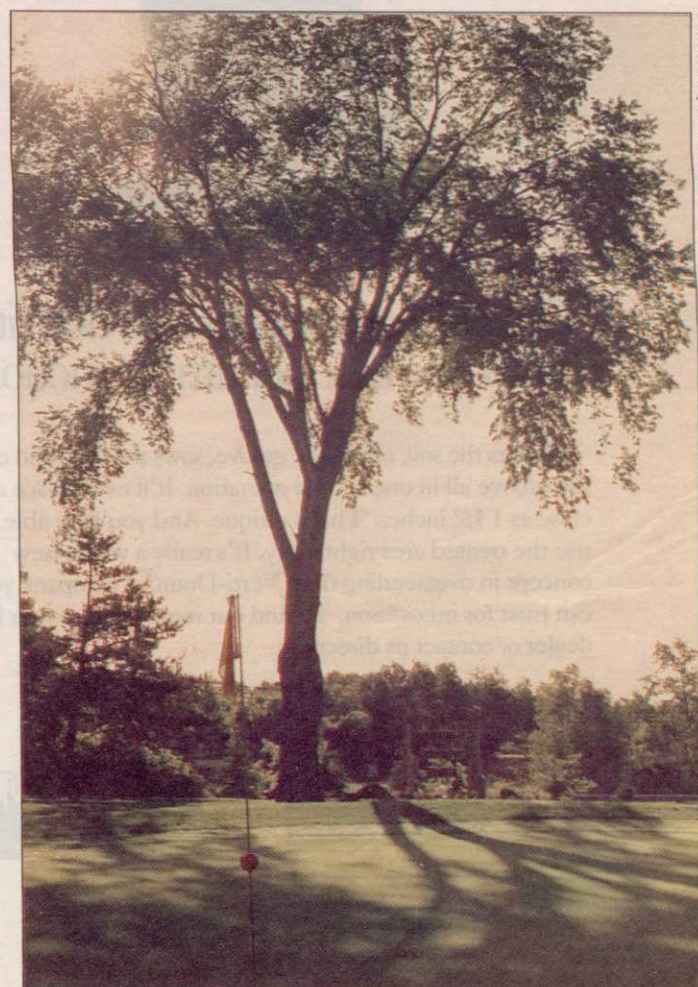
GROSSE POINTE FARMS, Mich. — In the early part of this century, golfers teeing off here at the Country Club of Detroit enjoyed the shade and splendor of more than 3,000 stately American elms. Today, all but 300 are gone, victims of the deadly Dutch elm disease. Sadly, the situation in Detroit is by no means unique.

Introduced to the United States in shipments of contaminated logs in the 1920s, *Ceratocystis ulmi*, the fungus that causes Dutch elm disease, has reduced the North American elm population by 50 to 80 percent over the last 75 years. But while there is still no sure-fire cure for Dutch elm disease, newly developed fungicides and disease-resistant elm varieties are beginning to turn the tide.

To understand the options for dealing with Dutch elm disease, it is necessary to understand the life cycle of the fungus. Fungal spores are carried to the tree by the elm bark beetle, which feeds on tender new shoots and bark. Once inside, the fungus invades the xylem, the water-carrying vessels of the tree. As the fungus proliferates, the xylem becomes blocked, resulting in wilting, yellowed leaves, and death.

For superintendents hoping to vanquish Dutch elm disease, the approaches are basically three: kill the bark beetle, kill the fungus itself, or plant elms that are less susceptible to the fungus' lethal effects. The most common means of controlling bark beetles is treatment with the pesticide Methoxychlor. The Elm Research Institute (ERI) of Harrisville, N.H., a non-profit institution dedicated to the preservation of the American elm, recommends trees be sprayed prior to leaf emergence each year. By heading off the annual influx of hungry bark beetles, according to ERI,

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Elm trees like this one used to be much more bountiful on America's golf courses.

Photo courtesy of Elm Research Institute

OSU breaks ground on research facility

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) has broken ground for a new Turfgrass Research Facility here on the Ohio State University main campus.

The 8,000-square foot building will serve as the focal point for research in the areas of agronomy, entomology and plant pathology in the state of Ohio.

The facility, funded largely by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation,



is scheduled for an October completion date.

A crowd of more than 60 individuals attended the ceremony, which included comments from Doug Halterman,

a past president of OTF, Fred Bosch, president of OTF

Also, Dr. Luther Waters, chairman Ohio State Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, and Dr. Bobby Moser, vice president of agriculture and executive Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Course design, construction seminar scheduled

DELHI, N.Y. — State University of New York-Delhi, the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTAP) and the state's superintendents associations will host a Golf Course Design and Construction Seminar at SUNY-Delhi, Aug. 8.

The 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. seminar will span topics from greens construction to irrigation, course-design basics and coordinating construction. Cornell University Dr. Norm Hummel will discuss how to use and interpret the U.S. Golf Association recommendations as they relate to specific green sites.

Paul Roche of S.V. Moffett Co. and Chris

Menno of CMI Systems Irrigation, Inc. will talk on how to determine water needs, pump requirements and irrigation design considerations.

Mike Haas of Haas Landscape Architects, Mike Ermisch of Ermisch Design Group and Larry Reistetter of Golf Design Group will present a step-by-step design process of an actual golf hole. Dominic Morales of SUNY-Delhi and Paul Young of Burton F. Clark Co. will discuss the logistics necessary for a successful construction project.

Tours will also be given of the Delhi College Golf Course expansion project. More information is available from NYSTA at 800-873-TURF.

Lyme disease

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and loss of muscle coordination.

Work continues toward the development of a Lyme disease vaccine, but until one is perfected, the following tips can help further reduce the chances of contracting the disease:

- Keep informed on the risk of Lyme disease in your area. Know how to prevent tick bites and be familiar with the symptoms of Lyme disease.

- During the summer months, when ticks are most active, wear light-colored clothing to make tiny deer ticks easier to notice.

- Tuck long pants into socks and wear long-sleeved shirts with tight-fitting cuffs and collars.

- Spray socks and shoes with an insect repellent containing permethrin and use an insect repellent containing DEET.

- Examine yourself thoroughly when returning from outdoor excursions. Remove attached ticks immediately with tweezers by grasping the tick's head as close to your skin as possible, and slowly pulling it straight out.

Fescue choices

There are two major types of fescue grasses — fine and tall — and five varieties of fine fescues.

The fine fescues are:

- strong creeping fescue, which spreads and fills in well;
- slender creeping fescue, which creeps but not nearly as much as strong creeping;

- chewings fescue, which has more bunch-type growth;

- hard fescue, also with a bunch-type growth habit; and

- sheeps fescue, which is bluish-green.

Hard and sheep fescues are more tolerant to heat, so they perform better in the transition zone.

Fine fescues are finer textured than tall fescue. They also tend to live long in heavy shade and have a more natural look.

Tall fescues are quite different. Less attractive, they nevertheless work best in transition areas and the South, performing well in the shade. Their main attribute is tolerance of heat and summer stress.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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