

BRIEFS



JACOBI TO REP ISK IN SOUTHEAST

MENTOR, Ohio — Jim Jacobi has joined ISK Biosciences Corp., the manufacturer of agricultural and specialty chemical products, as Southeast Turf & Ornamental specialist. Jacobi is a recent graduate of Auburn University. Jacobi will be responsible for the commercial development and sales support of ISK's turf and ornamental products and experimental compounds in the Southeast. He reports to Dr. M. Howard Thomas, North America commercial development manager.

CYANAMID SENDS SUPER TO SCOTLAND

WAYNE, N.J. — Tony Gustaitis, CGCS at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, Pa., will visit the birthplace of golf this summer courtesy of American Cyanamid Co., makers of Pendulum pre-emergent herbicide, Image herbicide, Amdro fire ant bait and Pendimethalin. Gustaitis won the expense-paid trip for two to Scotland at the GCSAA Conference & Show in February. "I never thought people really won drawings like this," exclaimed the seven-year Whitemarsh employee, who credits his wife with urging him to enter.

KOERNER TO LEAD SI'S FIBERMESH

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga. — Synthetic Industries, Inc., the second-largest manufacturer of technical polypropylene fabrics and fibers in the world, announces the formation of the Construction/Civil Engineering Products Group under the leadership of C. Ted Koerner. This new group will be composed of SI's Fibermesh Division and Geosynthetic Products Division (formerly Construction Products Division).



Ted Koerner

HARGROVE JOINS PURSELL

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc., has announced the employment of Garry Hargrove, PhD. Hargrove, formerly director of product development at Grace-Sierra in Milpitas, Calif., will assist in fulfilling Pursell's goal to lead the market worldwide in controlled-release fertilizer and related technologies development.



Garry Hargrove

EPA looking to streamline label review process

By PETER BLAIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency plans to accelerate or eliminate its review of many changes to pesticide labeling and formulas, according to EPA spokesman John Kasper.

The streamlined procedures could affect as many as 750 of the 5,000 pesticide registration amendments made each year, Kasper said. Most of the amendments concern labeling (such as changing to an alternative brand name) or altering product composition (such as the addition of dyes and fragrances).

"If EPA can establish procedures and guidelines that everyone understands so that products aren't submitted that don't qualify for the quicker procedures, then it could really speed up the process. That would be great," Ciba Product Manager Jose Milan said.

The proposed policy cuts EPA's review process in half, from 90 days to 45 days, for certain minor pesticide registration amendments.

At the same time, the notice expands the range of pesticide registration amendments that can be accomplished by simply notifying the agency without approval.

It also increases those amendments about which the agency need not be notified.

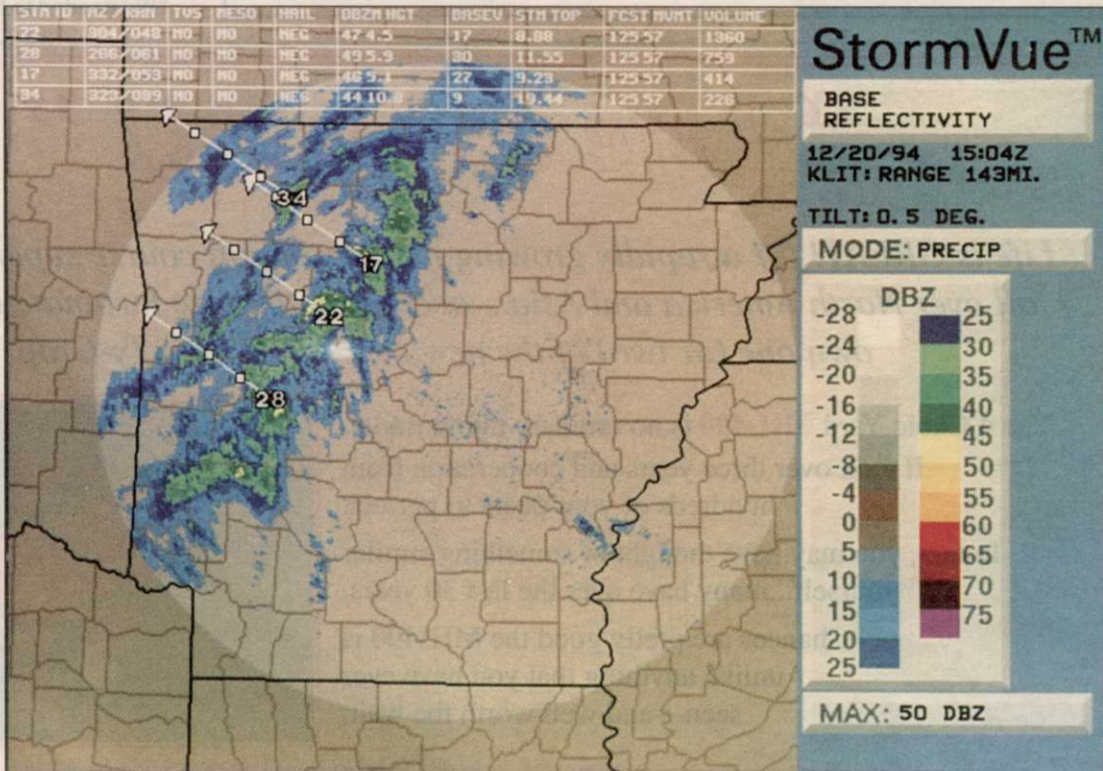
Companies using the notification process need to sign a certification statement pledging the amendments are in compliance with EPA regulations, including public health protection.

"[This] action demonstrates that our process for handling changes in pesticides registration can truly be cleaner for our environment, cheaper for the taxpayer and industry, and smarter for America's future," EPA Deputy Director Fred Hansen said.

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NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Accu-Weather, Inc. has announced the availability of its proprietary StormVue Nexrad Dopplerradar product, which is designed to predict where thunderstorms will go and indicate future storm locations (boxes along the storm track show future storm positions at 15-minute intervals). StormVue can be overlaid onto any of the 20 color graphic Nexrad Doppler radar products from any of the 88 Nexrad sites available from Accu-Weather. For more information, call Accu-Weather at 814-237-0309. For more new products, see page 42.



Study should lead to Bermudagrass certification in Fla.

By PETER BLAIS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Developing a certification program for vegetative Bermudagrass to ensure that Florida golf courses receive only top-quality turf from suppliers is the eventual goal of a two-year, \$66,000 study funded by two of the state's major golf industry associations.

The study, which begins this summer at University of Florida laboratories in Gainesville and Fort Lauderdale, will attempt to distinguish the desired strains of Tifway and Tifdwarf (the two most common grasses found on Florida courses) in terms of chromosome count, morphological (physical) attributes and DNA analysis.

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and Florida Turfgrass Association (FTA) are splitting the cost of the project. The two associations will share the findings with the 10 or so major Bermudagrass suppliers, who will hopefully use the information to eradicate off-type strains from their fields.

The undesirable grasses often have different densities, color and wear tolerance than the desired strains of Tifway and Tifdwarf. When mixed with pure strains, the unwanted characteristics of off-type grasses can result in inconsistent ball roll, higher maintenance costs and



disappointed golfers.

"That can have major ramifications for the superintendent, employees and golfers," said Kevin Downing, research chairman for the Florida GCSA and head superintendent at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart. David Barnes of Greg Norman Turf Co. represents the FTA.

"Six months into the program, we'll call the major growers together and give them an idea of what direction the research seems to be taking. We want to make sure they have time to react to the program rather than just dumping the results in their laps two years from now.

"It's frustrating for them to grow a crop and not get what they or the superintendents expected. The extra scrutiny will probably drive up Bermudagrass prices somewhat. But it's in their [suppliers'] and our [superintendents'] best interests

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Burlingham, Pickseed West penalized for alleged mislabeling

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Civil penalties amounting to \$110,000 have been imposed against two Oregon grass seed dealers following allegations of product mislabeling, according to reports in the Portland-based Oregonian newspaper.

E.F. Burlingham & Sons of Forest Grove paid a \$100,000 penalty, and Pickseed West Inc. of Talent paid a \$10,000 penalty stemming from an investigation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Both firms have signed court documents stating they will not violate unlawful trade practice laws in the future. Neither company admitted wrongdoing.

As part of the settlement, E.F. Burlingham & Sons had its state license to sell seeds suspended for 30 days starting May 20.

State inspectors alleged the Burlingham firm on several occasions from 1992 to 1994 labeled its own varieties of tall fescue seeds as Kentucky 31, a nonproprietary seed which has greater popularity in some markets.

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