

BRIEFS

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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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 Whitmarsh 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 Whitmarsh 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

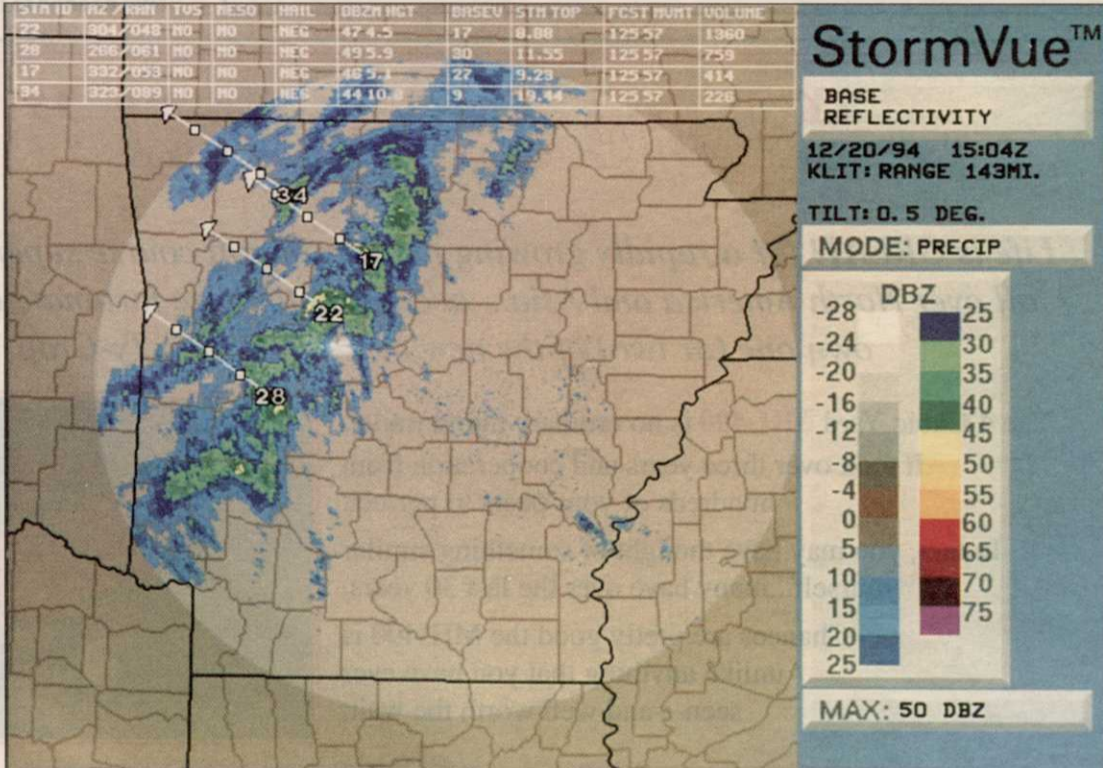
SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc., has announced the employment of Garry Hargrove, PhD. Hargrove, formerly director of product development at Grace-Sierra in Milpitas, Calif., will assist in fulfilling Pursell's goal to lead the market worldwide in controlled-release fertilizer and related technologies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



Garry Hargrove

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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Surflan's popularity spurs plant expansion

INDIANAPOLIS — DowElanco has announced a production plant expansion to meet increased demand for oryzalin, the active ingredient in Surflan pre-emergent herbicide. Oryzalin's world wide sales have increased 15 percent over the last year and customer demand continues to strengthen, according to John Peterson, product manager for Surflan.

"Industry professionals are seeking versatile products that are highly efficacious and versatile enough to be used on a variety of sites," said Peterson, who attributed Surflan's growing appeal to the need to reduce

weeds as part of integrated pest management programs. "They need to strike a balance between satisfying their customers and keeping operating expenses in mind. That means implementing a pest management program that advocates a judicious use of weed-control products."

Surflan has been used in the turf and ornamental industry for more than 15 years. It's designed to prevent growth of more than 50 grassy and broadleaf weeds on a variety of turfgrasses and ornamentals. For more information, contact DowElanco at 800-352-6776.

New offices for growing York Bridge

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Due to increased business and growth, York Bridge Concepts has expanded by opening a new and larger office strategically located here.

The new office handles all sales and marketing efforts intended to service the golf course industry throughout the northern half of the U.S., including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin, all of which ranked in the top five states for golf course construction, according to NGF's latest report.

York Bridge Concepts originally opened the regional office in February 1994, in order to better meet the needs of clients, but quickly outgrew its environs. "We needed to hire a salesperson and a

receptionist to handle the number of calls that were coming into the office," said Joseph York, vice president of York. "By adding more space and more phone lines, we are able to offer the level of service our customers expect."

York works in the office and directs activities in the Northeast region. Mark Neal is the sales manager for the Northwest area.

Revenues for the company, which is headquartered in Tampa, Fla., reached \$2.8 million in 1994. "We are on pace to double that figure for this year," said York.

Currently, three full-time employees staff the new office. For more information, call 800-383-0555.

"Life Is Great!"

Life is GREAT! for a rapidly growing number of golf course superintendents all over North America and Asia... according to those fortunate enough to own one (or two) of the new MH-400's from Ty-Crop.

The 4 Cubic Yard **MH-400** is no ordinary dump trailer.

It took over three years and cooperation from hundreds of your peers to perfect.

In fact, you may have thought of something similar yourself...many have over the last 30 years.

Chances are pretty good the MH-400 is unlike anything that you have ever seen—and well worth the wait.



The **MH-400** sits level at 34 inches or can be raised to any height up to 65 inches high—with one simple control lever.

This great feature allows operators to load top dressers, fertilizer spreaders, utility vehicles, etc., in only seconds...no wasted travel and unnecessary wear on your equipment, no labour—no sweat.



The **MH-400** boasts a growing list of outstanding options. The optional equipment easily attaches (without any tools!) in just a few moments on the universal mounting bracket located at the rear of every new machine.

The Twin Spinner is perfect for spreading top dressing mixes, sand, lime, gypsum and composted products from 15 to 40 feet wide.

You can even sand your roads and parking areas in the winter.



The 3-Way Cross Conveyor attaches to the right or left side and can be attached straight out the back to operate at a 7' extension to the **MH-400**. The Cross Conveyor will allow you to complete a variety of in house construction or renovation jobs.

It's the only answer for back-filling drainage ditches, building tees and greens, filling/maintaining traps and bunkers.

It's also great for building flower beds and completing a variety of landscaping jobs, etc.

For more information on the **MH-400**, your nearest dealer, or a free demonstration, please call:
TY-CROP TURF EQUIPMENT INC. 1-800-845-7249

Main Office: 48945 Yale Rd. E., Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6H4

Phone: 604-794-7078

Fax: 604-794-3446

EPA planning review of label procedures

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"These changes will allow us to focus our efforts on high-priority risks to public health, while making it easier for industry to make minor changes in pesticide registrations."

In the case of label changes, registrants will still be required to provide EPA with a copy of the product label including the latest alterations. EPA will review amended label changes and assist registrants to ensure that pesticide registration amendments under the new process comply with the agency's health and safety guidelines.

This is the first step in fulfilling the self-certification measure in President Bill Clinton's report on reinventing environmental regulations issued March 16, according to Kasper. It is expected to lead to similar streamlining efforts in other EPA programs.

Ciba Manager of Public Affairs Steve Powell said EPA staff and scientists have also shown a greater willingness to work with chemical manufacturers to make certain they are doing the proper tests and following the correct procedures to get more complicated, new products registered.

"A field study can take 18 months to finish. And if it's not done right you have to do it all over again," Powell said.

"We've worked closely with EPA the past few years to make sure our science is solid before we begin our research. It's working. Not so long ago, it wasn't unusual to take five to seven years to get a new product approved. We recently received approval for an agricultural herbicide in just 14 months."

Seed violations

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The state alleged that Pickseed used another company's proprietary names on Pickseed varieties submitted in response to a bid from a Midwestern buyer in 1993.

Dennis Isaacson, a state commodity inspections manager, said a \$5,000 civil penalty also has been imposed against E. Julian Lafayette Jr., a seed grower in Dallas, for mislabeling a seed variety. Isaacson said there was no evidence that Lafayette's conduct was intentional.