

BRIEFS



MID-AM AWARDS CASH

WAUCONDA, Ill. — Four colleges and universities received cash awards for participating in a career fair at the Mid-Am Trade Show, one of the nations leading horticultural expositions. The College of DuPage received \$600 for highest attendance with 25 students. The University of Illinois was awarded \$450 for second best attendance. Joliet Junior College and Iowa State University each got \$225 for third and fourth best attendance. A total of 153 students from 15 schools met with representatives from 76 companies.

ENVIROTRON GETS \$35,000

HOMOSSA SPRINGS, Fla. — The third annual Envirotron Golf Classic at World Woods Golf Resort raised \$35,000 for the University of Florida's Envirotron Research Laboratory.



Envirotron is a 3,100-square-foot state-of-the-art research lab that

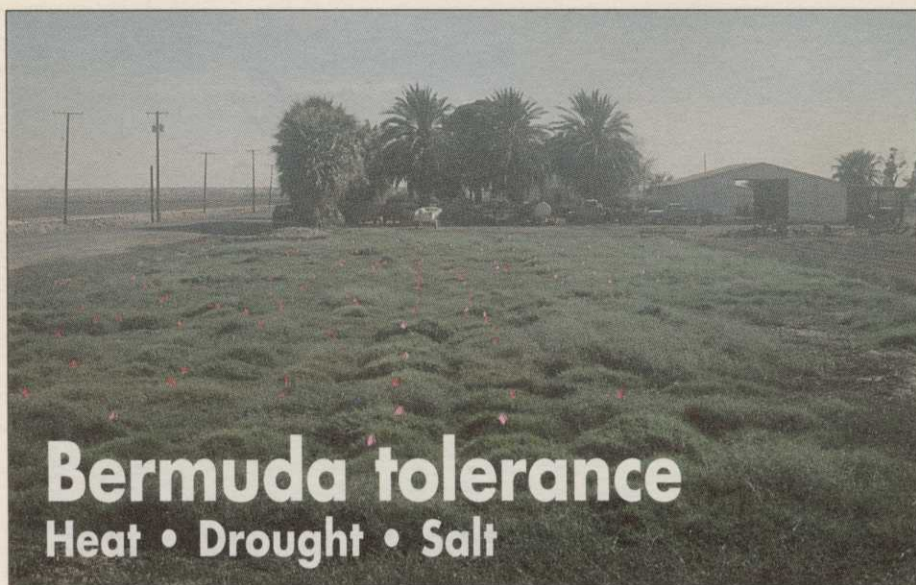
includes a greenhouse, four climate-controlled glass houses, two walk-in growth chambers, labs, study areas, classrooms and offices. Scientists there study turfgrass systems from root to blade and issues like temperature modification, noise abatement, pollution and water purification, and general turfgrass culture.

GCSAA CERTIFIES FIVE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kicking off its Environmental Management Program, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has cited Certified Golf Course Superintendents David R. Davies, Matthew W. Henry, Keith A. Ihms, Jim B. Key and Evonne K. Sandras. Key, of Pointe and Hilton Resorts in Phoenix, Ariz., completed course work for certificates in the Water Quality, Integrated Plant Management (IPM) and Underground Storage Tanks specialties. IPM certificates were awarded to Davies of Palo Alto (Calif.) Municipal Golf Course; Henry of Dixon (Ill.) Country Club; Ihms of Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas; and Sandras of C.W. Ditto Golf Course in Arlington, Tex.

LATHAM JOINS JACKLINGOLF

James M. Latham, who retired this year as a regional director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, has joined JacklinGolf as technical agronomist, working on projects worldwide. A graduate of Texas A&M with a master's degree in agronomy, Latham worked 14 years for the USGA after 24 years with the Milorganite Division of Milwaukee Sewerage. He will work with another former USGA agronomist, Jim Connolly, Jacklin's senior technical agronomist.



Bermuda tolerance  
Heat • Drought • Salt

Breeders advance on cold, seed challenges

By MARK LESLIE

As dominant a turf as Bermudagrass is on golf courses in the South, plant breeders would like to improve certain characteristics and introduce it further north. Fulfillment of their quest appears imminent.

"We're there," said Farmers Marketing Corp. (FMC) plant breeder Jeff Klingenberg, Arden Baltensburger's understudy. "We have a series by hybrids under the Princess brand that has the quality of a Tifway."

"We're looking to release one or more varieties within the next year," said Dr. Charlie Taliaferro, a pre-eminent scientist from Oklahoma State University.

Plant breeders have made great advances in meeting their two key challenges: developing seed-propagated Bermudagrasses and vegetative types that are cold-tolerant.

"A great deal of breeding work is being done by private seed companies, and they already have succeeded in putting products on the market," said Taliaferro, whose vegetatively propa-

gated Midlawn and Midfield have been at the top of the national trials.

"Our emphasis has been on development of seeded varieties that have cold tolerance in addition to reasonable turf quality. And in some of the tests in Northern locations, OKS 91-11 certainly survived, persisted and demonstrated cold tolerance."

Saying that the turf quality of the cold-hardy seeded Bermudagrasses is not yet as good as that of the best vegetatively propagated types, Taliaferro explained: "Breeding of seed-produced Bermudagrasses is relatively young. It's been in process only about 10 years, so quite remarkable progress has been made by both public and private sectors."

"We're doing something instead of nothing now. For years, nothing was being done [in seeded Bermudagrass research]," said Ronnie Stapp, senior vice president of Pennington Seed.

Indeed, Pennington has just introduced Yuma. A year ago Seed

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OFF THE RECORD

Insecticides difficult to rub off turfgrass

By MIKE KENNA

Do pesticides come off on your shoes or clothing when they come in contact with the turf on a golf course? This is the question researchers at the University of Florida and University of Massachusetts addressed in projects sponsored by the U.S. Golf Association's Environmental Research Program. Preliminary results indicate that very little rubs off the turf.

The amount of pesticide which can be rubbed off the turf is referred to by scientists as a dislodgeable residue. At the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center, chlorpyrifos (Dursban 2E) was applied at the label rate of 0.75 ounces per 1,000 square feet to a Tifgreen Bermudagrass green around 11 a.m. Immediately after the application, small four-inch squares of cotton cloth were pressed onto the treated turf with a pressure of 1.5 pounds per square inch. A second sample was taken in the same manner following a light

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Research on PGRs and algae urged

By MARK LESLIE

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Saying that golf course superintendents trying to prevent algae on their greens actually may be increasing it, a plant pathologist here believes the summertime effect of plant growth regulators (PGRs) should be studied.

Dr. Lee Burpee of the University of Georgia, whose research plate is full, called on someone in the scientific community to investigate the PGR effect "a little more closely."

Burpee, who has worked on bentgrasses with triazole-based fungicides, said triazoles also are active ingredients in PGRs — and therein lies the rub.

"PGRs can increase root development but decrease foliar elongation," he said. "The detrimental effect is that the canopy of the bentgrass becomes more open and allows light to the soil surface, and you get a tremendous growth in algae. That's what we're concerned about, because when algae comes

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Pinehurst first in on Safe Harbor

PINEHURST, N.C. — Pinehurst Resort and Country Club has helped Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt kick off a first-of-its-kind conservation plan to help endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers find safe homes on private lands.

"This proposal uses the flexibility of the current Endangered Species Act to introduce a new conservation concept that we call Safe Harbor," Babbitt said. "It offers private landowners an incentive to be good stewards of their land and provide habitat for endangered and threatened species. In exchange they get an ironclad guarantee that they will not be subject to restrictions later on if they succeed in attracting endangered species to their land."

Joined at the announcement by Pinehurst superintendent Brad Kocher and Environmental Defense Fund Chairman Michael Bean, Babbitt said Safe Harbor serves as a model for new ways to



Pinehurst's Brad Kocher

work with private landowners to resolve concerns about endangered species.

The plan "removes the disincentives that currently prevent most landowners from carrying out actions that could benefit the woodpecker," Bean said.

"Pinehurst is excited to be the first private landowner to sign on to this ... plan," Kocher said. "We knew the golfers like our

courses but we were happy to learn that woodpeckers find them a good substitute for their disappearing natural habitat."

Pinehurst will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance the woodpeckers' habitat.

Officially known as the North Carolina Sandhills Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), it differs from other habitat conservation plans because it is designed to encourage positive habitat improvements, in advance of any specific project that could adversely affect an endangered spe-

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## Earth First! & last

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Let's take a further glimpse inside *EF!*'s house organ in this, its Eostar issue (the April-May edition being named for Eostar, the Saxon Goddess of Spring who "takes the form of a white rabbit. She brings the dawn. The sun rises at equinox, directly out of the east..." enough already!).

- Where else could Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt be called "Babbling Bruce" and cited as hobnobbing with "Republican politicians, developers, polluters and compromising ecopuppies"? This is the same Bruce Babbitt who, as chairman of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), proclaimed in his introduction to the LCV's 1991 Environmental Scorecard of Congressional votes: "We must identify our enemies and drive them into oblivion."

- Where else could an "indigenous person" (that's Native American Indian for the neo-politically correct) excuse arson that destroyed 32 years of research at Michigan State University with the statement: "Sometimes we are forced to do things we do not like when we are warriors?"

- Where else can you order the book: *A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*, whose cover is duplicated as the cover of this Eostar edition: a silhouette of two wrench-wielding people in the darkness of night walking toward a piece of machinery. Guess their intent?

- Among the T-shirts it promotes: "My Heroes Have Always Killed Cowboys" (emblazoned with a picture of four gun-toting indigenous persons) and "Factories don't burn down by themselves... They need help from you" (sporting a picture of a charred building).

- Among the bumperstickers it offers: "Resist Much, Obey Little" and "Developers Go Build

## Professor urges triazole research

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in we have problems with density of turf.

"People are trying to prevent algae and the PGR effect seems to actually increase algae. But it seems to be temperature-related. In the spring and fall these triazoles don't give a growth regulator effect."

Burpee's tests, using triazoles to control brown patch on creeping bentgrass, have been performed in June, July and August. Brown patch control requires one of the highest label rates as well.

He said he did not have evidence of growth regulator effects from all the triazoles, "but at least some. And it is very possible that not all the triazoles react equally severely. Some may give more potent PGR effect than others."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

in Hell."

Speaking out of one side of their mouths, *EF!*ers say they want to be a real—and respected—player in the field of ideologies. Yet, out of the other side of their mouths they espouse careless destruction of property.

You might think environmental organizations care for the Earth? "No way!" say *EF!*ers.

Speaking at the Land Air Water Conference in Eugene, Ore., *EF!* spokesman Jeffrey St. Clair said, "We've got some national environmental groups like The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club that are doing a damn fine job" of destroying the envi-

ronmental movement.

Tell that to the scores of homeowners, landowners, developers and others whose plans they've held up for months, even years, in courts and community meeting rooms.

Calling the environmental movement neutered, without vision and void of common sense, St. Clair said groups like the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and The Wilderness Society have been bought by corporate foundations who advocate "extremely conservative social agendas." E-gads! St. Clair said they even give across the spec-

trum—from "right-wing causes like the Billy Graham crusade, the Christian anti-communist crusade" [anyone ever heard of such a group?] to the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.

Shame!

Asking readers in an editorial if the *EF!* movement should work within the system for the strongest law possible or pursue avenues of resistance that are more overtly revolutionary, Craig Beneville says: "Perhaps we would be best off focusing less on law and more on making life hell for the eco-plunderers in the field?"

Overlooking the great strides

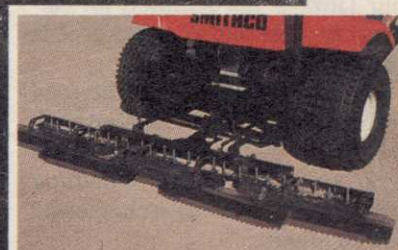
the EPA claims have been made over the last 25 years of Earth Days, Beneville contends that politicians care not about the environment when pitted against business or industry. Perhaps he has been living in Kiev?

Believe it or not, the Eugene, Ore.-based *EF!* has chapters from Alaska to Georgia. And there may be one in your backyard. (We're blessed with three in Maine.) So watch out.

As Seed Research of Oregon technical agronomist Skip Lynch said: "In the afterglow of the golf summit in Monterey just a few months in the past, I was saddened to read such hatred."

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