

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.



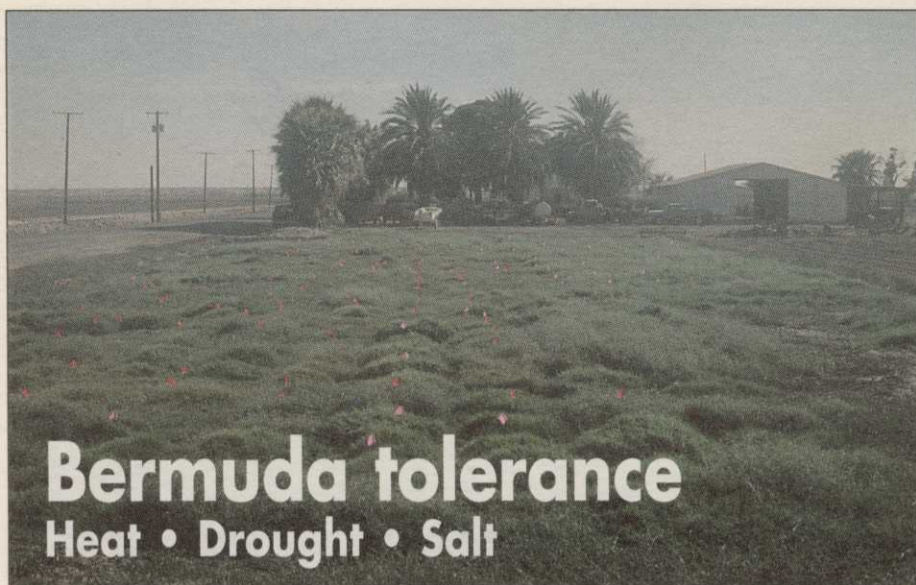
Envirotron is a 3,100-square-foot state-of-the-art research lab that includes a greenhouse, four climate-controlled glass houses, two walk-in growth chambers, labs, study areas, classrooms and offices. Scientists there study turfgrass systems from root to blade and issues like temperature modification, 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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UMinnesota student wins Musser award

By TERRY BUCHEN

The Musser Foundation has announced the 1995 Award for Excellence to Paul G. Johnson, who was awarded \$6,000 towards pursuance of a Ph.D in horticulture from the University of Minnesota.

According to Frank Dobie, superintendent at Sharon (Ohio)



Paul G. Johnson

Golf Club and president of the foundation, "Professor Burton Musser was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades

at Penn State University. The foundation that bears his name is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual. Supporting this new generation of turfgrass scientists is the wisest move that we can make."

"This kind of award indeed reminds me of the kind of support the turfgrass industry has for students like myself," said the 30-year-old Johnson. "No other industry group shows this kind of support in my mind. I also look forward to showing my appreciation by serving this great bunch of people in any way that I can.

"Mr. Dobie said it best when he described the turfgrass group as a 'family.' Currently, I am applying for positions at several universities and finishing up my Ph.D work, as well as some additional projects here at the University of Minnesota.

"My career goals begin, in the near term, by obtaining a post-doctoral position or assistant professorship, and continue to

research turfgrass breeding and genetics topics," Johnson continued. "Once in a faculty position, and part of a turfgrass management team, I look forward to continuing in research. Teaching would also be a key to my career. The interaction with students keeps me on my toes and down to earth, so to speak. Later on in my career I still wish to maintain at least some of the turfgrass breeding and teaching responsibilities, but would also consider administrative roles in

an academic department, university or professional society."

Johnson's doctoral thesis was on "Genetics & Physiology of Flowering on Selected Poa Annu." Under the tutelage of Dr. Donald White, Johnson's grade point average (GPA) was 3.70 cumulative for his master's and doctoral degrees.

Each year the Musser Foundation looks for the brightest, most promising turfgrass doctoral students throughout the world to award moral and financial support.

Seed Research honors superintendents

Jim Reinertson of Dedham (Mass.) Country and Polo Club has been awarded Seed Research of Oregon's (SRO) 1995 Golf Course Superintendent of the Year award, presented annually to the superintendent who best displays a stewardship for the environment by incorporating imaginative management techniques with innovative problem solving.

Seed Research President Mike Robinson presented the award to Reinertson and also honored Tom Cook with the SRO Research Excellence award. Aside from his duties at Dedham, Reinertson teaches turf students as a guest lecturer at the local community college and is dedicated to IPM, turfgrass variety testing and innovative cultural practices..

Cook was honored for his dedication to teaching and researching turfgrass culture at Oregon State University. He has been instrumental in teaching superintendents.

Pinehurst puts golf in forefront of Safe Harbor

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cies. Others HCPs have been intended to offset or mitigate some adverse impact to endangered species that occurs as a result of a development already planned.

The red-cockaded woodpecker lives mainly in forests of longleaf pines in the Southeast, along the Gulf of Mexico and Oklahoma.

Twenty-one percent live on private lands.

Private landowners have been concerned that they would be subject to restrictions under the Endangered Species Act if woodpeckers took up residence on their property.

The new plan removes that concern.

More information is available from the Sandhills Red-cockaded Woodpecker Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 225 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines, N.C. 28388.

Keep

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