

Supers joining compuworld

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are superintendents" reported Patton, who runs the board on his own personal computer with financial support from the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

TurfByte provides users with a range of resources including free software and GCSAA bulletins. But the bread and butter of the system is its lively message

section. Here superintendents ask questions and offer advice and opinions on topics as diverse as effective disease-control strategies, water analysis, and political issues affecting the golf course industry. The message area provides a kind of electronic community, where superintendents can trade war stories, make friends, and benefit from the experiences of their peers.

Electronic conferencing is also an important part of InAgOnLine, a system developed at the Uni-

versity of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA). Within InAgOnLine, a private conference domain called Turfgrass Clippings has attracted approximately 50 superintendents from the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition to a message section similar to that found on TurfByte, Turfgrass Clippings offers some innovative information resources for superintendents.

"We're going to be posting degree-day counts," reported Dr. Kevin Mathias who, working with colleagues at IAA, developed the system. "We'll have

superintendents out in the field with light traps and pheromone traps, and as they see things they'll pass the information on to the on-line system."

Information on commercial products, hazard communication publications, and bulletins from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents are also available in Turfgrass Clippings, and the system will continue to expand in response to its subscribers' needs.

Another service, GolfLink provides all sorts of information, most importantly radar on the national and regional levels, in-

frared satellite maps updated at least four times an hour, jet stream, temperature and soil-temp maps.

"The bottom line is that if there's pertinent information, people will want to tap into it," said Mathias. "So we're trying to get useful information into the system."

One limitation of dial-up services like TurfByte and InAgOnLine is users from outside the local area incur long-distance charges when they log on. This can discourage users from participating, and fewer participants means less valuable discussion. In response to this concern, smaller local bulletin boards have formed in several areas (including MetByte in New York and TurfTalk in the Chicago area). While these local boards have fewer participants (TurfTalk, for example, serves approximately 90 users), they have an advantage in that participants have more in common; they share a climate and are more likely, for example, to face similar legal restrictions on pesticide use.

An alternative approach is for national services to move onto the Internet, the worldwide computer network. Users would then access these services via local Internet providers that are now available in many areas and are expected to become universal. Internet access is in the works for TGIF, and is being considered for TurfByte and InAgOnLine.

The on-line world is changing so rapidly it is impossible to say what services will look like in 10 years time. In the short term, many providers will move from the current text-based systems to World-Wide Web servers, which provide for the transfer of other forms of information including photographs, audio, and even short video segments. As the technology improves, services will become easier to use and will provide an even wider range of information.

Whatever the future brings, golf course managers who are willing to make the initial investment now can take advantage of existing resources, and will find themselves poised to reap the benefits as new technologies become available.

Compu jargon, et al

On-line sources for golf course superintendents:

Turfgrass Information Center 517-353-7209 (voice)
TurfByte 913-842-0618 (data)
InAgOn-line 301-314-2034 (data)
TurfTalk 708-898-6168 (data)
GolfLink 800-200-3810 (voice)

An On-line Lexicon:

Modem: a device which allows you to attach your computer to a telephone line. With appropriate communications software, you can then access other computers by dialing in.

Bulletin Board Services: Computers that have been set up to receive calls from subscribers. Using a modem, you make a direct call to a BBS and log onto a simple menu-based system. Common services in-

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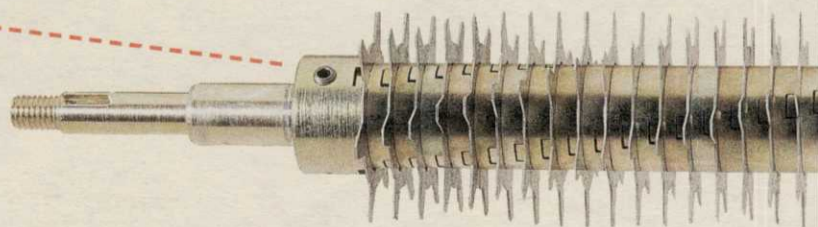
IS ~~REQUESTED~~ Required



Standard operator-presence system and new loop-style handlebars add comfort and safety to the 220's design. A low-effort ball must be pushed forward to engage and mow; while releasing the ball immediately and automatically disengages the reel and traction drive for safety.



The 220's new Greens Tender Conditioner (GTC) features 75 blades to better stimulate vertical grass growth. Like the model 22, it's powered by an optional gear-drive assembly that mounts ahead of the reel.



A new, more powerful, Kawasaki engine powers the 220. Now, the combination of 3.7 net horsepower, overhead valves, and 4-cycle design translate into not only more power — but quieter operation, as well.



Aluminum traction rolls on the 220 are now smooth for less green disturbance, and have been widened to cover the entire length of the bed-knife. External differential drive still splits power to both traction rolls for superior tracking.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

Supers' proper pesticide container disposal is crucial

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gun in your area, rinsed containers can be delivered to a designated collection site, where a chipper will grind the jugs before sending them out for recycling.

Shipping pallets and new containers are products that can then be made from these chipped containers. Pesticide applicators like the program because it offers a legal means of disposal that will keep them in compliance with all label requirements for container disposal.

Additional improvements are being made as some pesticide manufacturers are chang-

ing the packaging of some products from plastic containers to a pre-measured dissolvable pouch. These pouches can be placed in the mix tank with only a foil bag in need of disposal and a cardboard box that can be offered for recycling. This method of packaging uses the latest in technology to provide convenience to the user while maintaining the effectiveness of the product. Check with chemical sales representatives to find out what opportunities for this type of packaging exist for the products you may be applying.

Violations for improper container disposal

have increased over the last few years as some applicators have failed to seek out alternatives to old container-disposal practices.

Even when taking advantage of landfill disposal, it is important to clean every container thoroughly by either triple- or pressure-rinsing.

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Beard releases Fax newsletter

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dr. James B. Beard, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Texas A&M University and current president and chief scientist at International Sports Turf Institute, Inc., has a new subscription newsletter titled Turfax. Beard faxes the newsletter all over the world to golf course superintendents, sports turf managers, agronomists and others interested in the current developments in turfgrass.

Turfax is thorough, well conceived and has regular features, such as JB Comments, with Beard's opinions on many different turfgrass management topics. One column deals with new publications available on such subjects as university turfgrass proceedings, superintendent conference proceedings, university research reports, plant pathology books and any hot-off-the-press books of interest.

Beard has another feature, titled JB Visitations, that gives a brief, jam-packed account of where he has been around the globe and what he did or observed in the process. He also gives readers a list of upcoming JB Visitations.

The bi-monthly issues are usually six pages long. For more information people may contact: Dr. James B. Beard, International Sports Turf Institute, Inc., 1812 Shadowwood Dr., College Station, Texas 77840; telephone 409-693-4066; Fax 409-693-4878.

Compu jargon

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clude electronic conferencing, limited electronic mail, and free software collections.

Internet (or simply "the Net" to the initiated): A vast global network of computers; in most cases, transfer of information across the network is free to the user. Users usually pay a monthly fee to obtain dial-up access to a local internet provider. In addition, there may be an hourly fee for time spent on-line. Well-known systems that provide Internet access include Compuserve, America on-line, and Prodigy.

Depending on your provider, Internet resources you may have access to include:

Electronic Mail or e-mail: Once you're on the Internet, you can send electronic correspondence to anyone else on the Net, anywhere in the world, usually at no additional cost. Messages typically arrive at their destination in a few minutes; as a result, many e-mail users now refer to the traditional postal service as "snailmail."

Gopher: A text-based tool for navigating the Internet. Using a menu-driven system, users can browse among thousands of information sources around the world providing such services as database searching and free software archives.

World-Wide Web: Another internet navigation tool, but much more sophisticated than Gopher, the Web is the current Cadillac of Internet services. Individuals, corporations, and universities have produced thousands of "Web Pages" which can contain text, audio, and even video information on a given subject. Users can jump to related pages by simply clicking on "hypertext links." The result is an extremely intuitive means of obtaining information on virtually any subject.

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Ten years ago, Pythium was a superintendent's worst nightmare. Not only could it wipe out a green overnight, it could do the same thing to your job.

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Subdue immediately became the pre-eminent preventive control for Pythium, a status the past ten years have done nothing to change.

It's proven itself again and again in testing. And superintendents have given Subdue the highest satisfaction rating in the industry.

So if you're one of the few superintendents who haven't tried Subdue yet, be sure to start this year.

Who knows? It may even turn you into a morning person.



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