SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Verti-Drain suits multiply

By HAL PHILLIPS

BRIEFS

HUNDT TO HEAD NATIONAL

SALES FOR VERMEER

dition to overseeing sale of all

75 dealerships in all 50 states, as well

as five Canadian provinces. Previously,

Hundt was a regional sales manager

for Vermeer, cooperating with dealers

PRECISION TOOL BUYS

RIGHTS TO WETTING FORK

Products Co. has purchased U.S. dis-

tribution rights to the Wetting Fork, a

tool used to combat hot spots on turf.

The Fork, which will continue to be

manufactured by the Hermitage,

Tenn.-based Thinking Superintendent

Co., features tines mounted on a foot-

square platform which connects an

ordinary water hose. The tines are

pressed into the earth and, under 20 to

200 pounds of pressure, ejects water

that saturates an area in 10 seconds.

For more information on the wetting

fork, contact Precision Tool at 313-

429-9571.

SALINE, Mich. - Precision Tool

Doug Hundt

.....

Vermeer's industrial product in

North America, Hundt will over-

see a staff of seven regional manag-

ers and work with

the firm's distri-

bution network,

which consists of

in the Northeast region.

PELLA, Iowa — Doug Hundt has been named national sales manager for Vermeer Manufacturing Co. In adBATON ROUGE, La. — A cease and desist order, followed by ongoing product confusion in the field, has led to a pair of lawsuits; both concerning anti-compaction products; both filed here in federal court.

Redexim, the Dutch company which developed the Verti-Drain line of products, and distributors of Verti-Drain deeptine soil aerification machines

are pursuing litigation in the United States against a former distributor, Southern Green, Inc., marketers of the Soil Reliever aerator, for infringement of Redexim's patent and trademark rights. In its lawsuit, Redexim alleges that Southern Green, Inc., of Baton Rouge, La., a former distributor of Verti-Drain equipment, has infringed Redexim's United States patent and the Verti-Drain trademark, misappropriated trade secrets, and engaged in unfair

> competition. "It's actually a countersuit," explained K.V. Estes, co-owner of Southern Green. "We sued

them last November [1994] and we received their countersuit [in August]. We sued last year because they were telling everyone in the industry that we had infringed on their patents and they

Continued on page 44

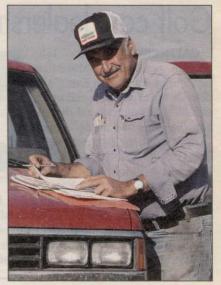


Harper Bros. storm Florida sand market

PALMDALE, Fla. — A 535-acre silica sand mine and state-of-the-art processing facility here, just west of Lake Okeechobee, now offers sand that meets U.S. Golf Association recommended specifications to golf course designers, developers and operators throughout South Florida.

The mine is owned and operated by Fort Myers-based Harper Bros. Inc., one of the region's largest producers of raw materials for road building and site development. The technologically advanced processing facility will monitor the sand's gradation and colormetric standards on a daily basis and use a washing & scrubbing operation designed to ensure production of a superior quality sand with no iron, clay or organic matter impurities, according to Ron Inge, Harper Bros. vice president.

"The Palmdale Sand Mine establishes Harper Bros. as a major player in the production of top quality sand for the construction and maintenance of golf courses throughout South Florida," said Inge. "The Palmdale site was selected because of the quality of the sand deposit." For more information on Harper Bros., call 941-481-2350.



Tee-2-Green President Bill Rose

Marking four decades of Penncross

By HAL PHILLIPS

he challengers are legion, some of them even originate in-house. But the longstanding king of bentgrass stolons — Penncross, which turns 40 years old this year — remains the putting turf of choice in transition and Northern climes.

"I would say, before they get contaminated with Poa annua, 85 percent of bentgrass greens in America are Penncross," said Bill Rose, president of Tee-2-Green, the marketing group with exclusive rights to Dr. Bert Musser's famous creeper. "Everybody's trying to do better, but I can't see anything lasting 10 years, much less 40 years. There isn't anything like it; never has been and probably never will be again."

Rose explained that today's Penncross seed — the first generation, straight from the parent stolons — is the same seed produced by Penn State's Prof. Musser in 1955. This direct line to Musser's innovation helps explain the product's unparalleled longevity, he said.

Continued on page 43



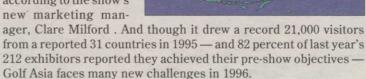
NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Parker Sweeper has introduced the 11-hp Portable Truck Loader for picking up leaves, grass clippings and mulch. Equipped with a high-speed, 6-blade impeller, the Loader is equipped with a durable, lightweight pickup wand and an 8- x 15-foot flexible, steel ribbed intake hose. For more information, call 708-627-6900. For more new products, see page 42.

New era for Golf Asia

By HAL PHILLIPS

SINGAPORE — With seven months remaining before the ribbon is cut here at the World Trade Centre, Golf Asia '96 has booked more than 60 percent of its available booth space, according to the show's new marketing man-



The number of show organizers has been trimmed from three to two, leaving Singapore-based Connex Private Ltd. and International Management Group (IMG) in charge of booth sales, show operations and marketing. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), which had been a co-organizer for Golf Asia '94 & '95, has relinquished its U.S. booth sales role. The GCSAA will continue to conduct the Golf Asia education conference, however. While Connex is responsible for the bulk of Asia-Pacific sales,

Continued on page 41

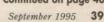
Hong Kong show reports first-year occupancy of 74%

By HAL PHILLIPS

HONG KONG — Since the end of World War II, Hong Kong and Singapore have openly cultivated their rivalry of little tigers. Whose standard of living is higher? Whose container port is bigger? Whose Chinese population sends more money back to the mainland?

Come November, the market will begin to mete out the next big question: Whose golf trade show is more successful?

The first International Hong Kong & China Golf Exhibition and Conference is scheduled to take place here at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Cen-Continued on page 40



Golf Course Marketplace

To reserve space in this section, call Diana Costello-Lee at 207/846-0600

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Penncross turns 40 **Continued from page 39**

"Time and time again we go through these trials and others jockey for three years, then you see Penncross is still the best," said Rose. "The bents are getting better all the time, and Penncross won't be nearly as dominant in 10 years. But there will be Penncross sold in 10 years, and people will still be pleased with it."

The careers of Penncross and Rose are nearly concurrent. Penncross was released in 1955, and Rose got out of the military service a year later. After becoming aware of the new creeping bent at an Oregon Seed League meeting the following winter, Rose got interested, secured some stolons from Musser and planted a small field in 1958.

"The quality wasn't good," Rose admits. "I happened to go on a trip back to Penn State and met Dr. Joe Duich. "There **GOLF COURSE NEWS**

was some turf conference going on and I was waiting outside in the hall for about an hour. Finally, a bunch of them found out I was growing Penncross, and soon they were all out in the hall talking to me.

"All the researchers claimed the seed that was getting to me wasn't Penncross. Even today you see stories about substitution, and that's certainly what happened back then. We had an all-night session to discuss the problems. Out of that, Penn State decided to release Penn-cross to us exclusively and we committed to growing only certified seed."

Rose helped form the Penncross Bentgrass Association, the exclusive grower and marketer of Penncross, in 1971, included most of the 14 growers that remain members today. Turf Seed, Inc. does the actual contracting with Penncross growers, while Tee-2-Green markets the product.

Duich has continued his relationship with

Tee-2-Green, consulting to the firm ever

the 1980s. Now everything's back up again."

when you're no. 1."

since. And the rest, as they say, is history. "It took a while to realize what we had,"

Rose explained. "Penncross got down to about a dollar a pound and everyone was complaining. But we've kept the same price for 10 years, through the shortage years in

Forty years is an amazing run for a single strain of bentgrass, and Rose knows it will end someday. This explains why Tee-2-Green has invested in new strains to compete with its own product.

"Our new bents are absolutely spectacular," said Rose. "I like to think they're breakthroughs in creeping bentgrasses. These grasses demand to be mown at 1/ 8 of an inch. They'll stand up to it, and no other grass will. We're going to call it Penn A-1. But Penncross is still the king, by 10-fold. Everyone's still shooting at it, even ourselves. But that's what happens