

Q & A Dr. Jackson weighs in on research advances

Dr. Noel Jackson is a native of Yorkshire, England. He attended Northallerton Grammar School and the University of Durham, Kings College, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he obtained an honors degree in agricultural botany and later a Ph.D in agronomy. From 1958 to 1965, Jackson was a biologist at the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England, where he established his interest in turf management. In 1965, he joined the University of Rhode Island faculty as assistant professor of plant pathology and is now a full professor. He teaches, researches and has extension duties in turf, trees and woody ornamental diseases. Over the past 30 years, he has worked closely with professional growers to ascertain and research their plant disease problems and recommend appropriate control programs. Jackson teaches two undergraduate courses, lectures internationally and writes widely. He is co-author of the textbook "Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turfgrasses."

Washed sod offers advantages to the producer—such as less soil loss and lighter shipping weight—but presents some establishment problems such as rooting difficulties associated with sod heating in transit,



Dr. Noel Jackson

drought intolerance and disease susceptibility. These problems are being addressed and practical recommendations developed.

Organic amendments provide plant nutrients, but may also

confer other benefits, often wildly exaggerated, in improved turf quality through disease suppression and thatch reduction.

Dr. Ruemmele is also actively involved in a colonial bentgrass and fine fescue breeding program and is in charge of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials at our research farm.

Dr. Richard Hull is investigating the physiological basis for efficient nitrogen use by turfgrasses. In related studies, Dr. Michael Sullivan is monitoring root growth patterns in selected turfgrasses, measuring the seasonality of root mass production and relating this feature to nutrient scavenging efficiency. These projects are important in that they seek to mini-

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Golf Course News: Can you tell us about the Tri-State GCSA-funded work you are doing on anthracnose and why it is important?

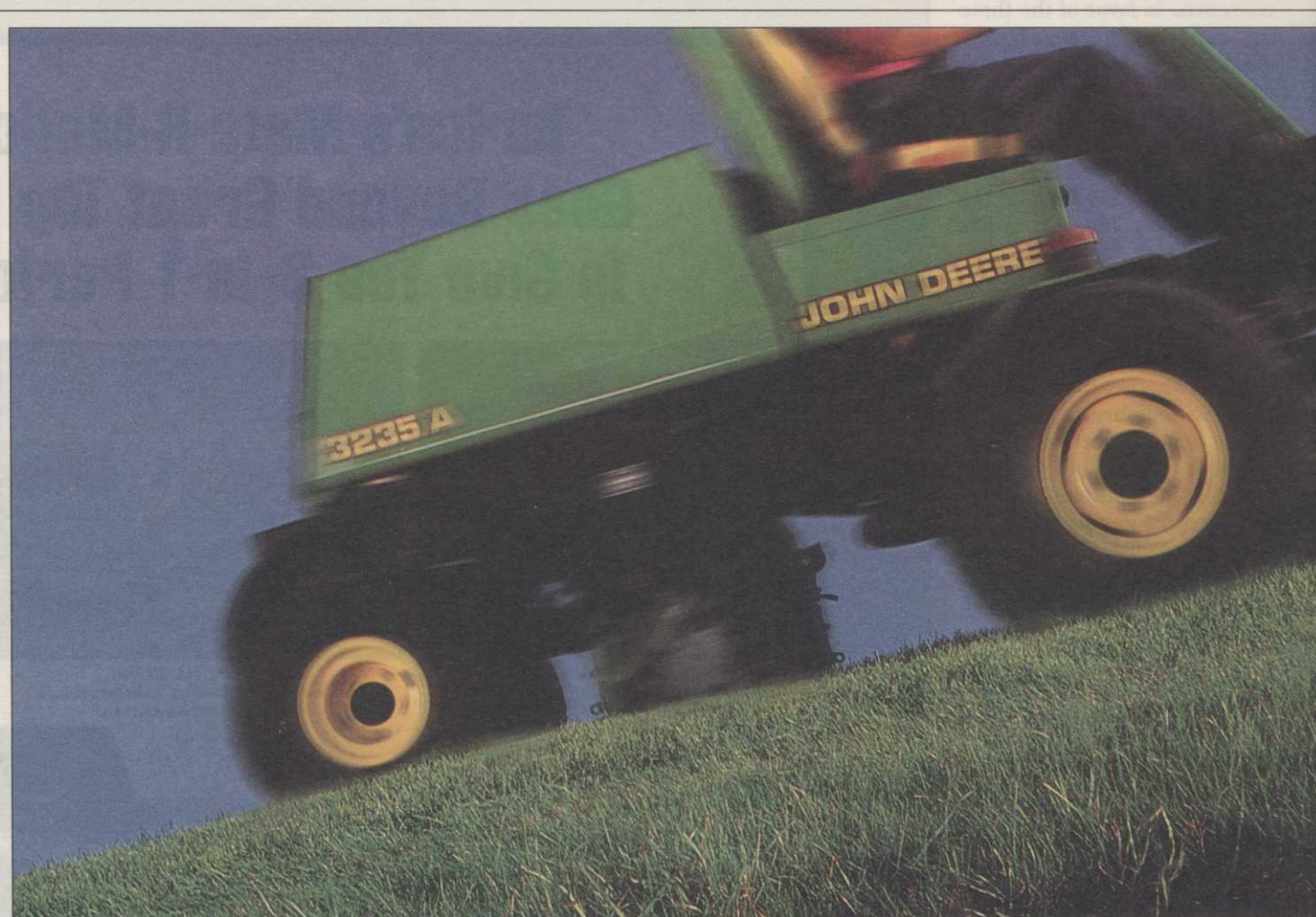
Noel Jackson: Tri-State is funding the project for three years investigating nematode/disease interaction in turfgrasses. Anthracnose is an increasingly common and severe disease of poa annua, but is becoming more prevalent on bentgrass.

Research on the biology of the causal fungus, the etiology of the disease, and effective chemical control measures are underway. Dr. Steve Alm is cooperating on this project, researching materials and delivery methods (including high-pressure injection) for nematode control. His other research projects involve biological and chemical control measures for turf insects. Two new bacterial agents show promise for both surface and subsurface insect pests.

GCN: You and the rest of the URI staff are actively involved in several other research projects. Can you discuss their status?

NJ: Dr. Bridget Ruemmele is directing several research projects that include investigation into the effects of golf spikes on turf wear; management procedures for the successful establishment of washed sod; and organic amendments to established turf.

Golf shoe traffic is a major cause of turf deterioration, particularly on heavily played courses. Spike design and/or shoe sole design greatly influence the amount of wear.



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IGM hires Campbell at Sandridge GC

VERO BEACH, Fla. — **Scott Campbell** has been retained as superintendent of Sandridge Golf Club here by International Golf Management, Inc. (IGM), a Lakeland-based firm providing turn-key golf course maintenance services on a contractual basis for public and private golf courses throughout the Southeast.

Campbell is responsible for complete maintenance at Sandridge's two 18-hole, par-72 courses — The Dunes and The Lakes. He supervises a staff of 23 and reports directly to Jim Wells, IGM's central Florida regional manager.



Immediately before joining IGM, Campbell served six years as golf course superintendent at Sandridge. He came to Sandridge as assistant golf course superintendent in June 1989, following graduation from

Lake City Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in golf course management.

...
PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — **Cary D. Lee** has been selected as the superintendent for Heritage Palms here. The 18-hole golf course, practice facility, and golf shop are part of the master-planned community, Heritage Palms, being developed by U.S.

Home Corp. and managed by Western Golf Properties, Inc.

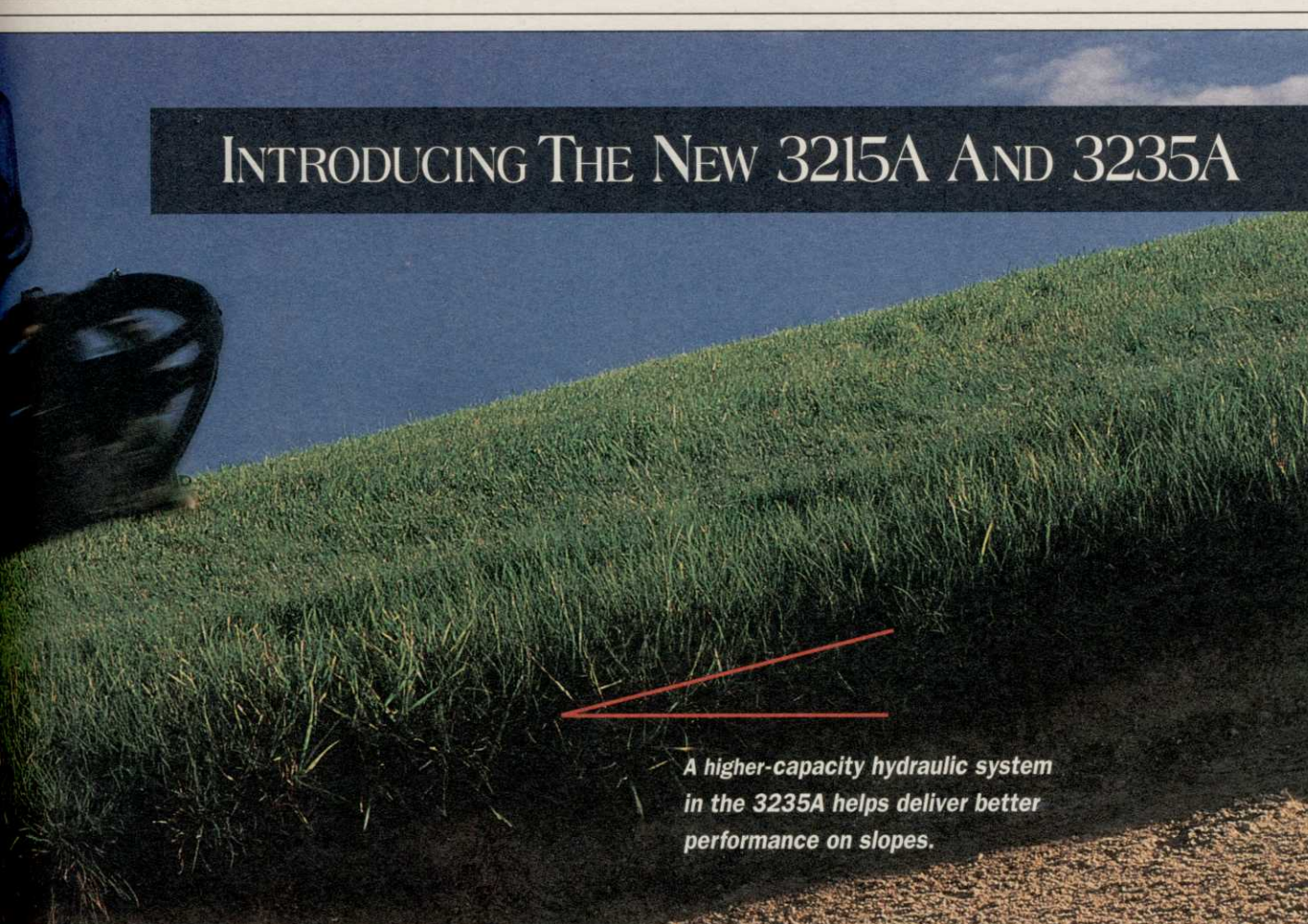
Prior to joining Heritage Palms, Lee served as superintendent/director of maintenance at Rancho Mirage (Calif.) Country Club from 1993 to 1996. From 1990 through 1993, as construction superintendent with Westinghouse Desert Communities, Inc., Lee led the team that brought Bighorn Golf Club in Palm Desert to fruition. Lee was an assistant superintendent at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage from 1986 through 1990 and La Quinta (Calif.) Country Club from 1969 through 1981.

...
TUCSON, Ariz. — **David F. Herman** has been hired as superintendent for Heritage Highlands here. The 18-hole golf course, practice facility, and golf shop, which is located in the community clubhouse is part of the master-planned community, Heritage Highlands, being developed by U.S. Home Corp. and managed by Western Golf Properties, Inc.

Herman served as assistant superintendent at Westin La Paloma Country Club here from 1994 to 1996, and Desert Hills Golf Club in Green Valley from 1992 until 1994. Before being elevated to assistant superintendent, Herman was an equipment manager at Red Mountain Ranch Country Club in Mesa and The Country Club at Green Valley in Green Valley.

Herman received a degree in turf management at Rutgers University.

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Q&A: Jackson

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mize the quantity of nitrogen used to maintain high-quality turf.

Dr. Ray Taylorson, our herbicide specialist, is investigating commercially available and experimental herbicides, both pre- and post-emergence materials, for their weed-control efficacy and phytotoxic effects. Another primary research effort involves control of poa annua.

GCN: Do you think the U.S. Golf Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and local superintendent chapters do a good job of allocating their research dollars? How might the process be improved?

NJ: Local and regional support from GCSAA affiliates, and other turf organizations, has been generous and particularly welcome in times of reduced experiment station and university funding.

We've had limited support over the years from the USGA, but look forward to more sustained funding in the future.