

BRIEFS

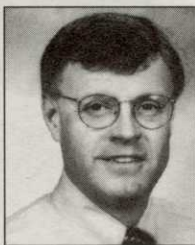


CHANGE OF PLACE FOR GCIS

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. — Golf Course Irrigation Services has changed its mailing address. The firm can now be reached at P.O. Box 156, Olive Branch, MS 38654-0156. The phone number is 601-895-1114; the fax is 601-895-1107. Note: The shipping address for Golf Course Irrigation Services remains 8765 Old Craft Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654-0156.

GAGNE JOINS REGAL CHEMICAL

Regal Chemical Co. announces the addition of its newest management team member, Ronald A. (Ron) Gagne, who brings to Regal nearly 30 years experience in sales and marketing in the professional turfgrass and ornamental industries. His previous employment includes 25 years with The Scotts Company, where he attained the position of vice president, professional business group.



Ron Gagne

# Industry seeks alternatives to field burning

Expect specific changes in cultivars, and their growers

By BOB SPIWAK

OLYMPIA Wash. — With all field burning outlawed next year, turfgrass seed growers here are scrambling for new methods of crop management and several ideas have emerged, although none yet are as economically sound as the traditional incineration.

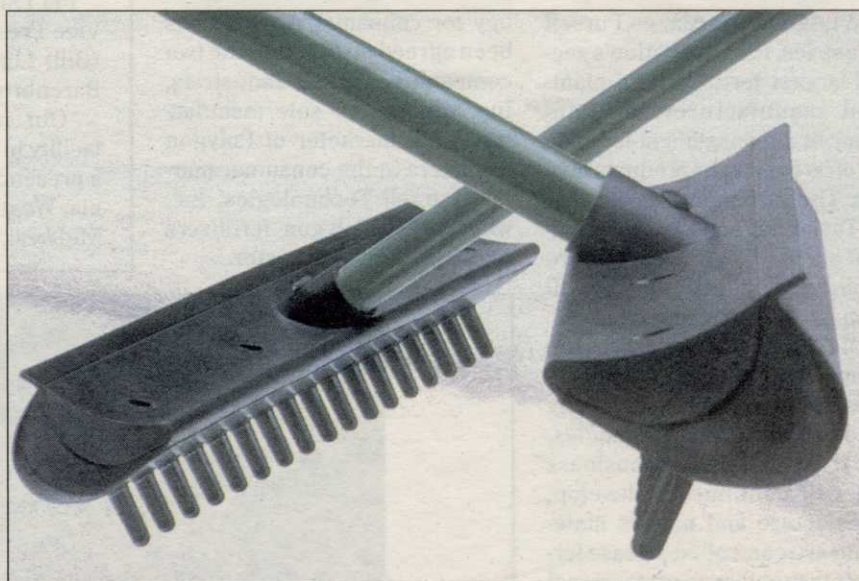
Fields are burned to remove stubble, kill weed seeds and, some maintain, enhance seed production. However, a groundswell of environmental opposition has been growing in the Northwest for some years. Oregon imposed a partial ban in 1991 which still allows 40,000 acres to be managed by fire. Washington took more Draconian measures, requiring total cessation of field burning by the end of 1998. That leaves Idaho as the only state with no anti-burning legislation, but farmers and industry people expect this to change.

Oregon State University (OSU) crop physiologist Dr. Tom Chastain, who studies how plants respond to management practices and affect the economics of crop production, said that while OSU has found economically viable alternatives to burning, these practices may not apply to eastern Washington, whose climate is different than Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Chastain refers to "an evolutionary process," where the industry, not the plants, must evolve to produce turf without fire. "In the '80s, it was all burned," he said of Oregon turf crops, "while in the '90s only 20 percent is being burned. Washington is in a different phase than us." (Oregon's burning reduction began a decade ago after errant smoke from field burning caused a tragic freeway pile-up.)

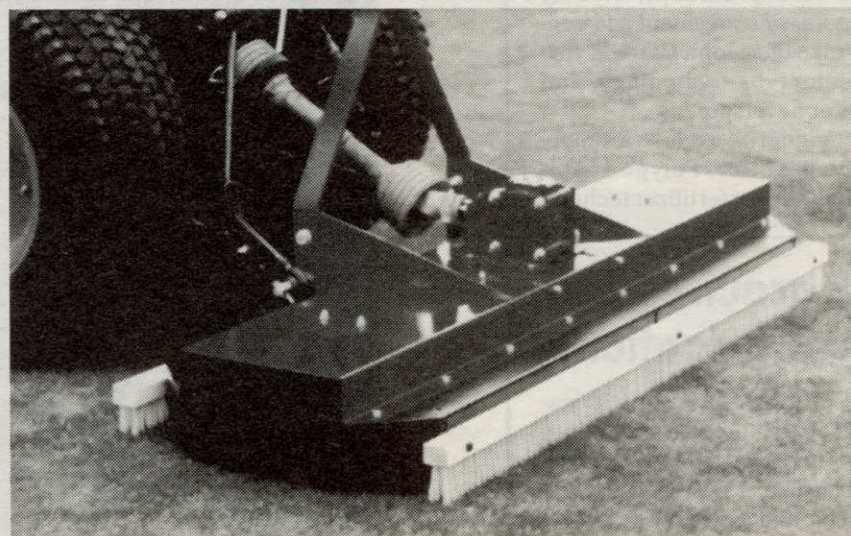
A "bare-bones program for non-thermal

Continued on page 55



NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Par Aide has introduced its new BunkerPro, the bunker rake that's designed to deliver years of use. A full 15 inches wide, the dual-sided, nylon-filled plastic head displays tines for smoothing on one side with a flat blade on the other. Since comfort plays an important factor in player participation in course upkeep, the extra-long, 54-inch handle with molded rubber grip surpasses conventional rakes by a full 6 inches. But perhaps the biggest selling feature is affordability. Priced well below \$20, this rake satisfies the needs of bunkers and budgets. For more information, contact Par Aide at 612-779-9851.



PATENT PENDING

## Your very first brush with success. Meet the new Verti-Brush.®

The unique, new Verti-Brush® cleans surfaces with one simple pass. Even when the surface is wet. It's a new way of brushing sand into aeration holes or other types of surface undulation.

Unlike rotating or reciprocating brushes, the open helix Verti-Brush picks up the sand and forcefully disperses it over the surface.

It has a working width of 5 feet, is PTO driven and can be used on various equipment from greensmowers to tractors. There are lots of other unique applications such as dew removal from greens or brushing sand off brick pathways. To find out more, why not call for a demo or free literature?



### VERTI-DRAIN®

Works like a pitchfork, only better.

Emrex, Inc., Box 1349, Kingston, PA 18704 (717) 288-9360

## The Grass Is Always Greener . . .

**When you let Davis Instruments' new GroWeather™ work for you.**

**GroWeather** monitors weather conditions to help you make optimal decisions about Pest Control and Irrigation. It calculates Evapotranspiration, Growing Degree-Days, and Heat Stress Index. Stores highs, lows, and accumulated readings. Station alarms can be used to activate your sprinkler or drip system when temperature, humidity, and leaf wetness factors call for it. Using our data logging/computer option, data may be graphed and compared. Software enables you to track development of individual pests with powerful degree-day feature. Choose thresholds to measure hours of Daylight, Chill, Leaf Wetness, Soil Temperature, and Temperature/Humidity.

For information, call

## 1-800-678-3669

**DAVIS INSTRUMENTS** • 2465 Diablo Ave. Hayward, CA 94545  
Visit us at [www.davisnet.com](http://www.davisnet.com) • GX378A