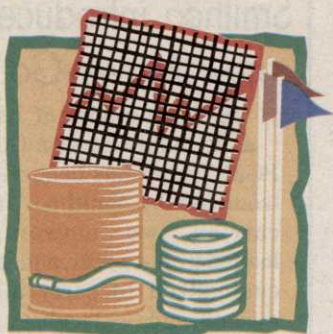
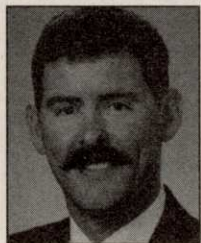


BRIEFS



TENTIS NAMED PRODUCT MANGER

POST FALLS, Idaho — Mike Tentis has been named product manager for the professional products division of



Mike Tentis

Simplex Turf & Horticulture, the parent company of BEST Professional Products, Jacklin Seed and Medalist America Seed. Tentis is responsible for sales of Jacklin

and Medalist America grass seed products throughout the Western United States and two provinces of Western Canada. Additionally, he works with Jacklin and Medalist America area managers and customers to coordinate the sales of BEST fertilizers to the professional landscape market in the Western states.

PENNINGTON SEED APPOINTS TUCKER IN THE WEST

MADISON, Ga. — Pennington Seed Inc. has appointed Roger Tucker as Western division turfgrass manager for its professional turfgrass group.



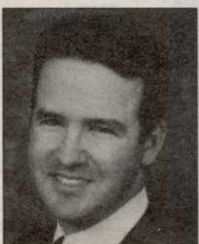
Roger Tucker

Tucker most recently was golf course superintendent at The Vineyard in Escondido. Tucker has more than 10 years of

experience in the turfgrass industry and has an associate's degree in turfgrass management.

ZIRKLE NAMED NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AT RAIN BIRD

AZUSA, Calif. — Matthew Zirkle has been named new business development manager for the golf division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc. In his new post, Zirkle is responsible for developing and implementing strategy for the division's new products and new business projects. He will make his office at the golf division headquarters in



Matthew Zirkle

Azusa. Prior to joining Rain Bird, Zirkle served as a senior product manager for the office products group of Avery Dennison. In addition, his experience includes sales, product development and product management responsibilities with Corning Consumer Products Company.

Toro acquires Multi-Core Aerators

ST. NEOTS, England — The Toro Co. has significantly supplemented its line of aerators with the acquisition of UK-based Multi-Core Aerators Ltd.

The Multi Core aerator range consists of three large units designed for use with compact tractors and to be operated on fine turf areas such as tees, greens and fairways. Units come in working widths of 101, 152 and 203 cm.

"These are proven products with a high reputation and we are delighted to have them join our stable," said Pete Mansfield, Toro general manager in the UK. "They shall continue to be made in Britain, and with immediate effect all sales, spares, repairs and service are now through our Lely operation."

This acquisition represents an almost

mirror image of the SISIS purchase of Huxley Grass Machinery — Toro the grass cutting machinery specialists buying an aerator company versus SISIS the 'aerator specialists' buying a grass cutting machinery specialist.

The economic principle of diversification of portfolio in order to expand has not been lost on the major players in the golf course industry and could well represent a significant step in the furtherance of 'single supplier' deals.

The latest such exclusive partnership deal for Toro has been signed with Sunningdale Golf Club, Berkshire. The famous heathland venue has entered into the five year partnership with ultimate investment being valued at approximately £0.25 million.



A MultiCore Aerator unit on the move. Toro recently acquired the UK-based company.

Eco Soil to acquire Agrium's AgBio div.

RANCHO BERNARDO, Calif.—Eco Soil Systems, Inc. has entered into a binding letter of intent to acquire the Agricultural Biological Division (AgBio), a specialized research group of Agrium Inc. AgBio, based in Calgary, Canada, has been involved in the research and development of agricultural biocontrol and bacteria to enhance plant growth for more than 10 years.

The transaction is subject to certain conditions, including execution of a definitive merger agreement, Eco Soil's satisfaction with a due diligence investigation of AgBio, and the receipt of any necessary consents from third parties. The acquisition is expected to be completed by mid-August 1999.

In other Eco Soil news, the firm has engaged George K. Baum & Company to pursue strategic relationships for the purpose of further developing the company's BioJect technology into new markets.

Baum, a NYSE-member firm based in Kansas City with offices in 15 states, has more than 70 years of investment banking experience and has developed a strong presence in the food and agribusiness industry.

'Gray market' tractor case coming to a head

TORRANCE, Calif. — An administrative law judge of the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) has determined Gamut Trading Company, Inc., Gamut Imports, Inc. and certain company officers violated a cease-and-desist order prohibiting Gamut's importation and sale of "gray market" Kubota tractors rated at 50-PTO horsepower and under.

The ITC judge recommended a \$650,000 fine be levied against Gamut and its principals for violation of the order.

"Gray market" tractors, which are imported and sold without Kubota's authorization or consent, do not meet the company's U.S. operational or safety specifications and are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

The ITC ruling follows a complaint filed by Kubota Tractor Corp. in January 1996, citing Gamut's importation for sale of Kubota "gray market" tractors in the United States. In response, the ITC initiated proceedings and, after a lengthy review process, the Commission issued a general exclusion order, as well as cease-and-desist orders against Gamut and its principals.

It is expected the ruling will be reviewed by the ITC over the next several months. The Commission may accept the judge's recommended penalty or modify it.



TERRA INTRODUCES INJECTION SYSTEM FOR FLORIDA

Terra Industries Inc. has unveiled its new Prescription Injection application services in Florida. This environmentally sound application system is for fine turf, including golf course greens and fairways, athletic fields and parks. Prescription Injection is the patented process of injecting fertilizer and pesticide formulations into the soil to quickly and effectively eliminate pests. It creates a soil environment capable of producing the finest turf. Every Prescription Injection program contains BioEdge WSP (Fe), a biostimulant, and Hydretain, a root-zone moisture manager. BioEdge is an advanced biostimulant that helps established turf survive in stress conditions caused by temperature extremes, excessive moisture, drought, soil salinity and disease or insect pressures. Hydretain is formulated to efficiently manage soil moisture, reduce water intervals, and provide the benefits of both proper soil moisture and plant available moisture.