

## Dakota Peat expands factory, product line

EAST GRAND FORKS, Minn. — Dakota Peat & Equipment has completed the expansion of its production facility here. The new 80,000-square-foot building quadruples the company's production capability and was built to keep up with the demand for its line of topdressers, dethatchers, blenders and soil movers.

The company also recently announced several new product additions including the 1012 Soilmover and an updated version of the 440 Turf Tender.

The 1012 Soilmover features a hydraulic ripper blade with a single or dual tilt 10-foot blade. The system is laser adaptable and the hydraulic ripper system features 12 ripper shanks adjustable to four positions for use in grading and shaping, ditch cleaning and sloping, and mud and snow removal.

The 440 Turf Tender now has a Shur-lok cover making it an

all-weather machine and preventing fine materials from becoming airborne. The unit also features a new digital tachometer for the spinners to ensure greater accuracy in spreading materials.

## Rain Bird developing moisture probes

GLENDORA, Calif. — Building off the roll out of its residential MS-100 model, Rain Bird Corp. is developing a moisture sensor for use in agricultural and golf markets.

The unit measures soil moisture levels and automatically supersedes scheduled watering cycles when a sufficient level of moisture is detected. The sensor will be compatible with nearly

every irrigation controller on the market and can help increase efficiency and reduce water use.

The MS-100 detects moisture levels using two horizontally-placed carbon rod probes at the driest point of the irrigation system. When the probes detect soil saturation caused by rainfall or irrigation, they bypass water cycles until the moisture level drops below a user-adjustable setting.

## Lesco profits

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economic forecasts continue to reflect uncertainty, we have identified market share expansion opportunities in our core business segments and product lines, and expect sales growth in the range of four to five percent," Michael DiMino said. "Coupled with improving raw materials cost and the benefits from expense reductions, we expect to return to profitability in 2002."

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In other news, Lesco has named Jeffrey L. Rutherford to replace R. Breck Denny as the company's senior vice president and chief financial officer. During the transition, Denny will remain with the company in a consulting capacity.

Rutherford will report to William Foley and will have responsibility for all financial management functions, including banking, accounting, credit, taxes, Securities and Exchange Commission reporting, and investor relations and communications.

Prior to joining Lesco, Rutherford was senior vice president and chief financial officer for OfficeMax, Inc. He also spent 14 years with the accounting firm Anderson.

"Rutherford brings an extensive accounting background, experience as a chief financial officer in a public company and knowledge of the retail store operating environment," said Foley. "He will play a pivotal role in our ongoing efforts to strengthen the business and improve profitability." ■



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