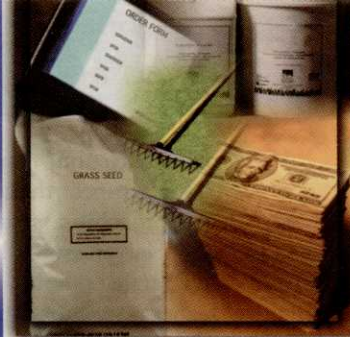


SUPPLIER BUSINESS



BRIEFS

JACOBSEN APPOINTS MAY

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Textron's Jacobsen Turf, Commercial & Specialty Equipment group has appointed Howard May senior vice president of operations. May comes to the division with more than 20 years of manufacturing and operations management experience at various Textron locations. Prior to this appointment, May was senior vice president of operations at Kautex, a Textron company, and was responsible for the facilities in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and Avilla, Ind. May joined Textron in 1995 in the company's Automotive Trim division.

NECE JOINS BIOSAFE SYSTEMS

GLASTONBURY, Conn. — Daniel Nece has joined the Turf Division of BioSafe Systems as a territory sales representative for the Mid-Atlantic region. Nece will be responsible for business development in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Nece has been in the golf course industry since 1995 when he started as an assistant at Riverton Country Club.

FINN CORP ADDS BOWERS

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Finn Corp. has added Marc Bowers to its executive team. As vice president of marketing, Bowers will oversee all strategic planning, distribution growth and marketing for Finn and Express Blower. He will be specifically involved with erosion control related product lines.

FMC REORDERS STAFF

PHILADELPHIA — FMC Corp.'s Specialty Products Business has recently reshuffled its staff. Dr. John Long is the new product development manager for turf and ornamental products. Amy Gabrielian has been promoted to marketing and software solutions business manager. Jim Walter has moved up to marketing and business development manager and will lead efforts to define, develop and implement new marketing programs. Felicia Boone has also joined the staff as assistant product manager.

E-Z-GO revamps utility vehicle line

By ANDREW OVERBECK

AUGUSTA, Ga. — E-Z-GO has replaced its five-year-old Workhorse line with a new family of utility vehicles that will carry the Multi-Purpose Truck, or MPT, nameplate. The more "truck-like" MPT line will be unveiled at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Show in Atlanta this month.

E-Z-GO will offer the MPT in four different configurations in both gasoline and electric versions that have payload capacities ranging from 800 to 1,200 pounds.

"We realized that we needed to keep the product evolving and improving," said E-Z-GO's Ron Skenes. "It is a competitive market, but these changes are based on feedback we have gotten from customers."

The biggest change will come on the MPT 1200 and 1000 models that feature a roto-molded, polyethylene cross-link load bed

with inserts for tie-downs and racks. The bed also has a gas-assist shock for easier dumping and wall slots for 2 x 4's to divide the bed into sections.

"A polyethylene bed is a better match for the environment that superintendents work in. It will be a lot more durable than metal, steel or aluminum," Skenes said.

Initially, the MPT 800 series will only be available with a steel cargo bed.

E-Z-GO has also upgraded the electric power source on the MPT 1000 to a 48V system. Previous Workhorse models relied on a 36V system.

"With eight six-volt batteries, the 1000 now has more power," said Skenes. "Gas has historically been the biggest seller in this segment, but it will be interesting to see how the 48V system takes off. Superintendents we have talked to are excited about this innovation."

The MPT 800E will still come

with the 36V power system. The MPT 1200 has an 11-hp, 350cc, 4-cycle engine and the MPT 800G has a 9-hp, 295cc, 4-cycle engine.

In addition to the new polyethylene bed and the larger electric power plant, the guts of the vehicles have also been redesigned. The cargo bed frame has been reinforced for more support and the front axle has been widened to improve the vehicle's ride and handling.

Other improvements to the MPT vehicles include improved



The new MPT features a polyethylene cargo bed.

engine performance and enhanced clutch design for better hill climbing and better cold starts.

Rain Bird to unveil Eagle wireless rotor

AZUSA, Calif. — Rain Bird Corp.'s Golf Division is set to introduce its Wireless Eagle Rotor to the golf market this year. With wireless technology now reaching the golf market, superintendents will be able to eliminate extensive amounts of underground wires and electrical connections associated with

conventional irrigation systems.

The new Rain Bird rotor uses

the same technology as its Eagle line, but the rotor is controlled without the use of remote satellite or decoder technology.

"As implied by the name, the Wireless Eagle Rotor eliminates the need for all types of wire," said golf structural development manager Steve Sakurai. "It needs no power wire,

no communication wire and no station wire.

"The elimination of these lines can help courses in high-lightning areas from experiencing downtime," he added. "It also allows for maximum flexibility in the location and placement of rotors."

The rotor is powered by an internal battery, which is recharged by a solar panel integrated into its case. Installation is the same as a conventional rotor, minus the electrical wiring. The rotor is installed on a swing joint and then programmed with its

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The new Wireless Eagle Rotor

Kubota files trademark infringement suit against Kioti

TORRANCE, Calif. — Kubota Corp., of Osaka, Japan, and its affiliated United States distributor Kubota Tractor Corp. have served a legal complaint upon Kioti Tractors manufacturer Daedong Industrial Co. Ltd. and its U.S. distributor Daedong - USA Inc.

Kubota filed charges of trademark and trade dress infringement and unfair competition in United States District Court in Fresno, Calif., on Aug. 19, 2002. Kubota's efforts to resolve the lawsuit prior to formal service on Dec. 4, however, were unsuccessful.

The lawsuit alleges that Kioti has engaged in trade dress infringement by using Kubota's dis-

tinctive orange color, and in some cases Kubota's distinctive hood design as well, on its competing models of tractors. The lawsuit further alleges that Kioti has been responsible for statements indicating a current relationship between Kubota and Kioti with respect to tractors when, in fact, no such current relationship exists.

In the lawsuit, Kubota seeks, among other things, injunctive relief against Kioti's use of the Kubota color and hood design and against false or misleading statements by Kioti. Kubota also seeks monetary damages, including treble damages and punitive damages based on Kioti's allegedly willful and/or intentional misconduct.

Market still developing for underground reel

By ANDREW OVERBECK

COLUMBIA CITY, Ind. — Former superintendent David Mihailides and Reelcraft Industries are pushing forward with their underground hose reel product for golf course and sports turf applications.

Mihailides invented the hand-watering device in 1999 while superintendent at Boulder Hills Golf and Country Club (now called Foxwoods G&CC) in Rhode Island. He then incorporated DGM Syringing Systems to distribute the product that has since sold more than 400 units.

Mihailides signed a deal with Reelcraft in April 2001 to market and manufacture the product and left his superintendent's position in hopes of making his invention pay off. He is now working to build brand and market awareness for the product.

"It is my hope that this becomes a specified product with both new irrigation systems and renovation

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