

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Curalan remains available for course maintenance

BASF Agricultural Products said it will amend the listing of vinclozolin uses supported by U.S. labeling as a result of the tolerance reassessment process conducted by EPA under the Food Quality Protection Act.

However, the Research Triangle Park, N.C.-based company can still offer Curalan, a vinclozolin-based fungicide that controls dollar spot, for golf course maintenance.

ABT saga drawing to a close

The saga of the bankruptcy of AgriBioTech (ABT) is coming to an end. The Las Vegas-based bankruptcy court sold most of Henderson, Nev.-based ABT's grass business to a group consisting of former ABT president Kenneth Budd, Dick Olson of Proseed Marketing in Jefferson, Ore., and Idaho-based J.R. Simplot Co. The price was \$24.5 million.

Environmental Golf consolidates units

Calabasas, Calif.-based Environmental Golf, a division of Environmental Industries, consolidated its golf-related businesses as part of a restructuring program.

The consolidation is designed to make Environmental Golf a more customer- and sales-driven organization, according to Michael L. Dingman, senior vice president.

Meadowbrook purchases Sabal Point

Lakeland, Fla.-based Meadowbrook Golf Group purchased Sabal Point CC near Orlando from ClubCorp. It's one of 18 facilities operated by Meadowbrook in Florida and the ninth in central Florida.

The course was called Trophy Club of Orlando, but Meadowbrook is returning its original name.

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PDI Permutations

As D-Day approaches for the vote on GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative in February, the Membership Standards Resource Group (MSRG) has revised the proposal in accordance with feedback from its members. The key changes regard what it will take to become a Class A member:

- a combination of formal education, experience and points, including an alternative path for non-degree holders;
- a valid state pesticide license or a

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certification from the GCSAA in pesticide management;

- five points (50 hours) of education and service points (which would replace the original professional development units and will retain the equivalent of 0.1 point per contact hour) over a five-year period. At least two of the points must come from continuing education.

The changes in the education requirements are the result of criticisms that the original requirements were too costly. In addition, the original plan didn't offer any credit for

on-the-job experience.

"By awarding credit to any education program that meets our criteria, we have gone a long way to providing education that is affordable and accessible," said Ray Davies, CGCS and a member of the MSRG.

Class A members will be encouraged to use the Professional Development Resource (PDR), which was formerly called HR Web in the original proposal. Though it will not be mandated (as it had been when it was HR Web), it will still be required to achieve certification.

All Class A members will, by definition, meet the initial requirements to keep their classification and will only be responsible to meet ongoing requirements. Class B and C members won't have to meet the sliding scale requirement, but must meet minimal experience and points to obtain Class-A status.

Bruce A. Williams, MSRG chairman, encouraged members to contact their delegates to voice their opinions about the revised proposal.

There was talk at a recent GCSA chapter meeting that a movement is afoot to postpone the vote on PDI until 2002, but Jeff Bollig, GCSAA's director of communications, disputes the claim. "I am not sure of the nature of the rumblings, but the plans call for a vote in 2001 at Dallas, with implementation set for July 2003," Bollig said.

The language of the final proposal will be finalized in October.

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ISTRC creates sister company

Olathe, Kan.-based International Sports Turf Research Center formed a sister company, ISTRC New Lab Mix, to conduct tests required to meet USGA Green Section guidelines for new construction or reconstruction of greens. ISTRC developed the ISTRC System, which has resulted in guidelines for new bentgrass and bermudagrass that refine USGA specs.

Lesco teams with Kawasaki; reports record sales

Cleveland-based Lesco will carry Kawasaki Motors products as its exclusive hand-held power equipment line in 234 Lesco service centers and 75 Lesco stores on wheels.

In another matter, Lesco reported record sales and earnings for the second quarter and six months ended June 30, with growth reflected in all major product categories in the first half. Net sales for the second quarter increased 5 percent to a record \$158.3 million, compared with \$150.7 million for the same period last year. Net income for the quarter increased 11 percent to a record \$10 million compared with net income of \$9 million last year.

Toro forms dedicated unit

Bloomington, Minn.-based The Toro Co. created a dedicated unit of personnel to manage and service its national and corporate accounts. In the past five years, national accounts have become a significant part of Toro's business. The people working with domestic national accounts customers are now unified under a single department allowing them to increase their level of service, according to the company.

Tyler opens warehouse

Elwood, Ill.-based Tyler Enterprises opened a full-service warehouse and delivery operation in Louisville, Ky. The 3,200-square-foot building serves as a distribution center for Tyler's custom-blended fertilizer products and specialty chemicals, and as an office for the Kentucky sales and service team.

Disc Connected to the USGA

GREEN SECTION RECORD ON CD-ROM PROVIDES EVERY ARTICLE PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1921 AND 1997

By Matt Kilpeck

It's a safe bet that most people reading this article have heard of the USGA Green Section Record. But how many know that the USGA also has a CD-ROM collection of the Green Section? I didn't, until my boss, Matt Shaffer, superintendent of The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Ohio, gave it to me.

The CD-ROM collection is a set of 11 discs spanning from 1921 to 1997. Although the CD-ROM collection only goes up to 1997, the collection is beneficial because the discs include every article published between those years. For all you pack rats, it's time to clean your shelves of all the old magazines and invest in the future. In the CD-ROM format, the articles are now available anytime in an easily accessible manner. The CD-ROM is a concise collection of articles which provides advice about different aspects of maintaining high-quality golf turf.

I was interested in the fact that I could browse the CD-ROMs and read a number of different articles pertaining to a particular subject from many different years. One feature that I found particularly appealing was the ability to look up an article from the past so easily. This provided a fascinating comparison between the techniques used in the past and those of today.

I did encounter difficulty when looking for a specific topic, however, because I didn't know where to find

an index or table of contents. After rooting around for a while, I found that the CD-ROM did contain indexes. They are located in the November 1976 issue, covering articles from 1966-76; and the December 1991 issue, covering articles from

1977-91. Furthermore, the indexes are broken down into

15 major categories that include all the relevant articles under that topic. For every article found in the indexes, the volume, page number and year are given, which enables the user to easily find the desired article. Search engines by word search and topic are also available, but this type of search is limited to the disc in use at the time. Also, the CD-ROM does not contain instructions regarding usage and navigation, but it doesn't take long to figure it out.

Overall, the CD-ROM collection is a valuable resource for anyone in the turfgrass industry because it provides quick research on any number of topics. Furthermore, the CD-ROM is also more efficient than searching through magazines and never finding a particular topic. Instead, all relevant topics pertaining to a subject are found by conducting a search or looking through one of the indexes. Finally, for all the turfgrass history buffs, the CD-ROM collection provides an interesting look at past turfgrass issue and techniques.

Matt Kilpeck is an assistant superintendent at The Country Club in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

