

Off The Fringe

Business briefs

Simplot disputes L-93 ruling

J.R. Simplot is disputing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to abandon the Plant Variety Protection application of Loft L-93 bentgrass, marketed by the company's Jacklin Seed division.

The ruling, handed down by USDA's Plant Variety Protection office, means the cultivar has no proprietary owner and that generic versions of L-93 could be sold.

J.R. Simplot purchased the seed at a bankruptcy auction after the demise of AgroBioTech in 2000, but Simplot didn't obtain a new PVP, which is required when a variety changes hands.

"Simplot is aggressively pursuing all available avenues to restore the PVP application for L-93," the company announced in a media advisory. "Ultimately, Simplot believes the PVP office will reconsider its decision and reinstate the application."

NGP, AGC announce merger conditions

National Golf Properties and American Golf Corp., both based in Santa Monica, Calif., have announced conditions of their merger, which they reported in February. Under the merger, both companies would become subsidiaries of a new holding company that would be owned by current National Golf shareholders.

The new company would also not be a real-estate investment trust as National Golf was previously. The company plans a new name upon completion of the merger, which is expected late this summer.

Ruling doesn't affect golf industry

While the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced it wants to ban

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Embracing the 'Enemy'

SPEAKERS URGE COLLEAGUES TO USE GROUPS' EXPERTISE

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.,
Managing Editor

The words sent palpable shock waves through the conference room.

Two superintendents, appearing at a seminar on environmental success stories during February's GCSAA show, uttered words their colleagues never expected to hear about their ongoing battle with environmentalists: Embrace the "enemy."

Actually, Peter Lund and Ray Davies don't view environmentalists as the enemy at all — far from it. Lund, certified superintendent of Rhode Island CC in Barrington, R.I., said superintendents should embrace environmentalists because they have access to sufficient resources to

solve potential problems. Davies, a former superintendent who's now director of golf course maintenance and construction for CourseCo, a Petaluma, Calif.-based management company, says the environmentalists have access to government leaders in ways a superintendent will never achieve.

"These guys are the experts who know how to lobby governments, and they have the contacts," Davies said. "When you involve them in the process, you'd be amazed at how much they will help you accomplish."



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COURSECO

Lund said environmentalists understand the complex web of government agencies that may have jurisdiction over projects and can help superintendents navigate those agencies.

"Engage the environmentalists and get them to contact the appropriate agencies on your behalf," Lund said. "They know which levers to flip, and they don't go away. They'll stay in the politicians' faces as long as necessary to accomplish their goals."



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