Business briefs

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potassium sulfates in a slowly available form without the need for coatings.

Deere teams with EAGL

John Deere was named the exclusive supplier of golf course maintenance equipment and financing to Evergreen Alliance Golf Limited (EAGL), a golf course management company serving more than 40 courses around the country.

Through the agreement, John Deere Golf & Turf One Source will be supplying golf and turf maintenance equipment to the superintendents of each EAGL course, including all mowing, aeration and specialty turf products. John Deere will also provide exclusive financing to the courses.

New Standards for Controllers and Sensors, But ...

The Center for Irrigation Technology (CIT) is in the process of developing nationwide standards for irrigation controllers and soil sensors that will be finalized by the end of the year. But Dave Zoldoske, director of CIT, said the draft standards won't matter unless irrigation consultants can convince construction firms to use the standards.

"It's great to have standards, but if no one implements them, what good are they?" Zoldoske said. "We need to work together to make these work."

Bayer announces reorganization

Bayer Environmental Science recently announced a reorganization within the Chipco Professional Products marketing group. The changes include several new positions, as well as adjustments within the structure of previous positions. The new slate of managers now includes:

Jim Fetter as director of marketing.

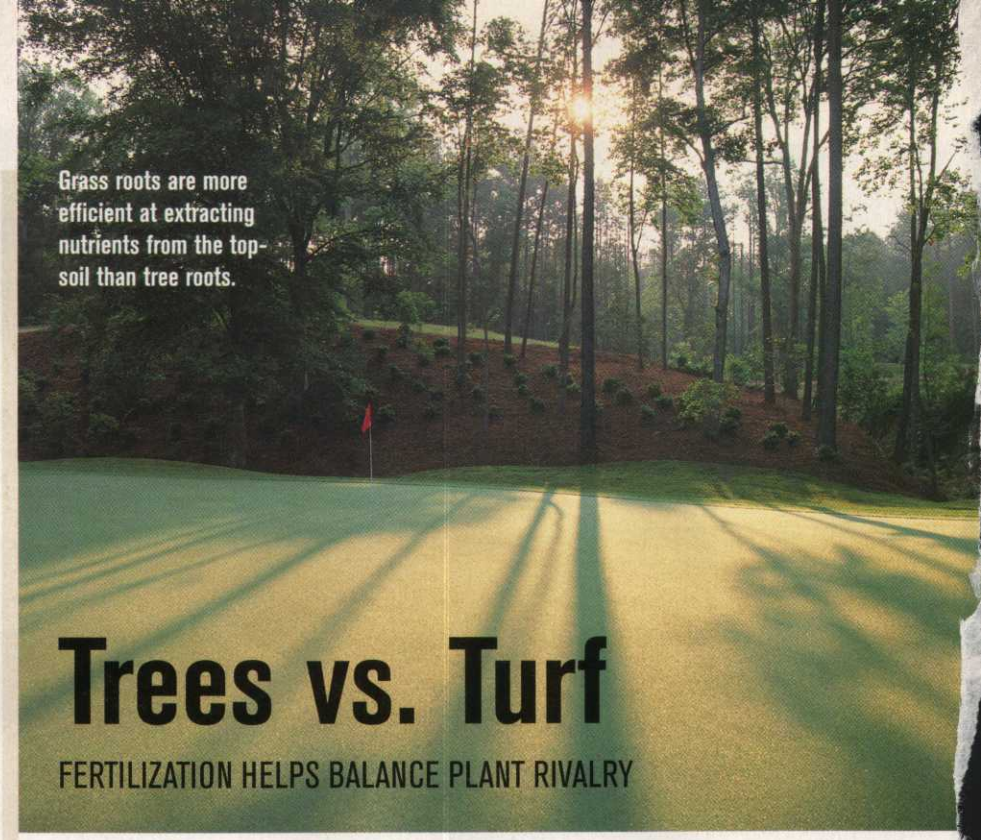
Marc McNulty as business manager of insecticides.

George Raymond as business manager, herbicides/PGRs.

Eric Kalasz as business manager of fungicides.

Mike Ruizzo as business manager of CNIs.

Bryan Gooch as program manager.



Grass roots are more efficient at extracting nutrients from the topsoil than tree roots.

MIKE KLEMME

Trees vs. Turf

FERTILIZATION HELPS BALANCE PLANT RIVALRY

By Jami Pfirrman

Great battles are waged on every golf course, and the competition is fierce. The contenders bring with them an intense hunger to win. But instead of clubs, they are armed with competitive root systems.

On every golf course, the towering trees are in constant competition with the plentiful turf. The winner draws in a purse containing the most nutrients a course has to offer. But with the right care, the trees vs. turf rivalry can result in a win-win situation for both of the competitors as well as superintendents and golfers.

In forests, trees grow in typically ideal conditions. Forest soils are rich in nutrients from leaf decomposition and other decaying plant matter.

In most landscaped environments, many plants lack the nutrients necessary to thrive. The space surrounding trees is usually occupied by turfgrass, which competes with trees for nutrients. Grass roots are more efficient at extracting nutrients from the topsoil than tree roots. Grass roots more fibrous and closer to the soil surface, and are better able to absorb the nutrients and fertilizers before they have a chance to reach the deeper tree roots.

The key to healthy trees and turf, in part, is a proper fertilization program. For trees, the goal is to get the fertilizer down deep enough into the soil so that the roots can easily absorb nutrients. To increase nutrient absorption, the fertilizer must be applied below the grass roots. A subsurface tree fertilizer is applied in the top four to 12 inches of soil, which is where trees' most active roots grow.

Applying a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer in the fall enables trees to assimilate the nutrients necessary for ample chlorophyll and subsequent carbohydrate production that eventually increases overall tree health. Although trees can be fertilized with a slow-release form of nitrogen fertilizer at any time of the year, fall applications produce immediate effects the following spring.

Well-nourished trees are more tolerant of insects, disease and unfavorable environmental conditions like drought.

Pfirrman is a communications specialist at the Davey Tree Expert Co.