



Aurora
Central Control
System Software



Aurora
Stand-Alone
Controllers



Aurora
Network
Satellites



Thompson
Heavy-Duty
Rotors



Thompson
Solid-Brass
Valves



Signature
Management
Consultation

We've got the software,
the hardware,
the controllers,
the satellites,
the rotors,
the valves,
and the *only* two-way
communication system
that doesn't require a PC.



Free controller/remote trial offer!

To get you started on the right course, order an Aurora™ stand-alone controller and remote control by May 31, 2001. If you don't see a difference within 90 days of your order, simply return the unit and we'll cancel your order (less shipping and handling fee). Call now to see how easy and affordable upgrading your current system can be. Our help desk is available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. PST, Monday thru Friday.

(left: Paul Latshaw and Paul Ramina with their Aurora Controller on the 8th hole of the Riviera Country Club.)

Heck, we've even got free technical support from guys like Mr. Latshaw!

At Signature Control Systems, we've got a lot to offer. Including over 93 years of experience under former names Union Tools Irrigation and Thompson Co. That's why guys like Paul Latshaw have joined the Signature team to offer you the industry's most advanced irrigation management technology. From a full line of Aurora™ software, stand-alone controllers and network satellites to a complete range of high-performance Thompson® rotors & valves, Signature Control Systems has everything you need for complete irrigation control... and complete peace of mind.

One Control Box. One Affordable Solution.

- ▶ Operates as a stand-alone controller or as part of a network, with or without a central computer
- ▶ Upgrades easily and affordably to bring your entire course up to par
- ▶ Utilizes hardwire and radio on the same network
- ▶ Features weather-station compatibility
- ▶ For more product information go to www.signaturecontrolsystems.com

**Call Toll-Free
866-4SIGNATURE
for details.**

Circle No. 101

Paul Latshaw

Former Head Superintendent:
Augusta National;
Congressional Country Club;
Oakmont Country Club;
Winged Foot Golf Club

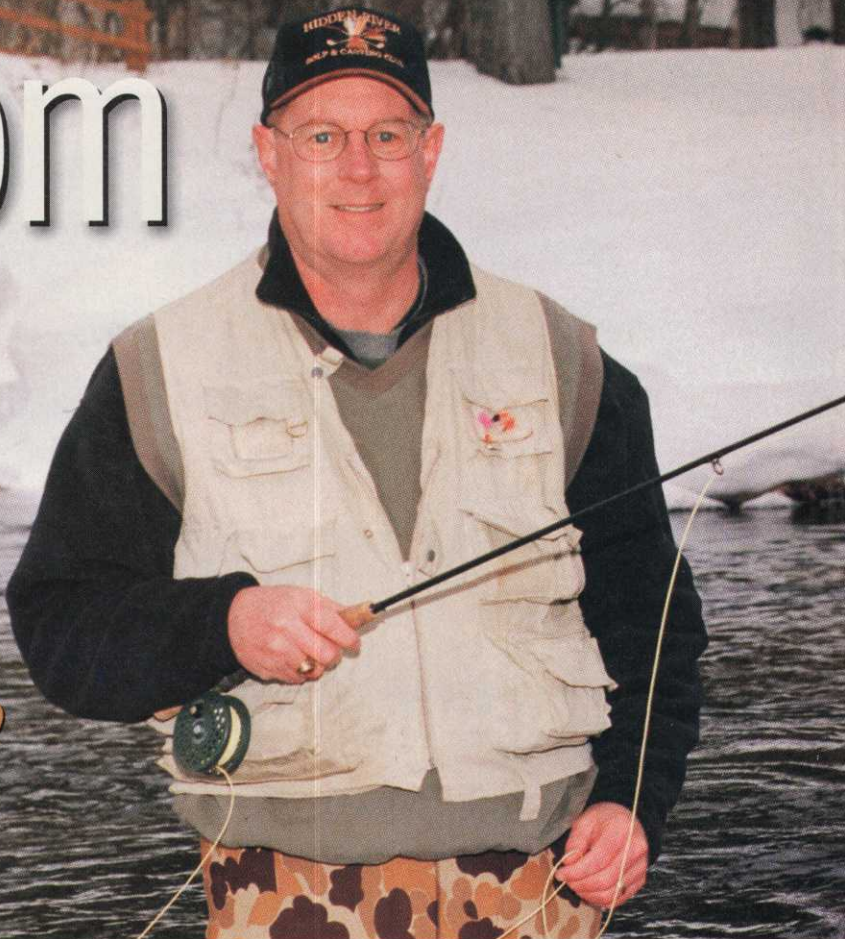
Now Signature's New
Director of Agronomics

Signature
CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC.
*flowing with
new ideas*

Golfdom

MARCH 2001 • VOLUME 57 • NUMBER 3

A Hidden *River* Runs Through It

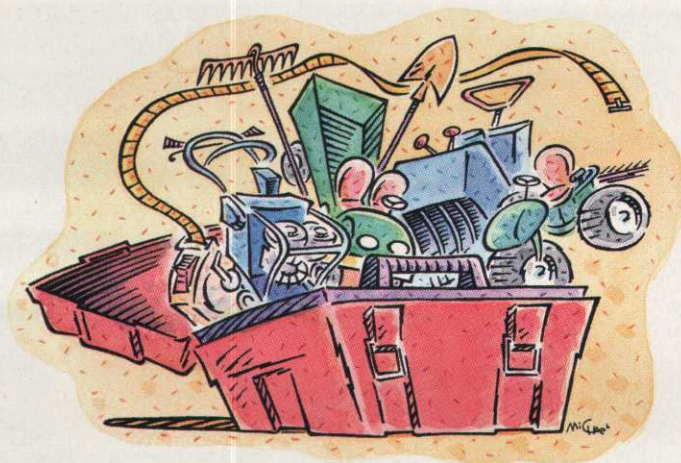


26

Buddy, Can You Spare a Million?

E-commerce companies face financial challenges if they want to enter the golf market.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.



40

Tool Time

To complete a successful golf course remodeling, architects need to make sure they have the essential equipment.

By Frank H. Andorka Jr.



cover story

BY LARRY AYLWARD

In designing Hidden River Golf & Casting Club, architect Bruce Matthews created an upscale course and preserved a pristine waterway.

32

48

Cast a Long Shadow

Newfangled balls and clubs will help golfers on the tee, but industry veterans say such equipment is hurting the integrity of the game.

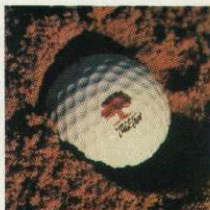
By Geoff Shackelford

54

Building the (Im)perfect Golf Course

We need more tracks with slow greens and bunkers that yield fried-egg lies.

By Jim Connolly



About the cover

This is not *Field & Stream*, but our cover could pass for it. Photographer Roger Boettcher, of Leavenworth Photographics in Lansing, Mich., captures Bruce Matthews fly fishing the cold waters of the Maple River on the grounds of the Hidden River Golf & Casting Club in Brutus, Mich.

News with a hook

16 To Tell the Truth

20 All Aglow

columns

- 12 **Flagstick**
Still Bullish
On the Golf Business
- 14 **Pin High**
Time for Owners
to Don Thinking Caps
- 25 **Shades of Green**
Stop Soiling
Our Reputation
- 52 **Designs On Golf**
Why the USGA
Must Prevail
- 68 **Dave's World**
I Have a Dream:
Irrigation Reform
- 82 **Out of Bounds**
The Brackets

real-life solutions

- 62 **Save Me Some Salmon**
It's no fish tale: The San Geronimo GC crew, with the help of local environmentalists, built a ladder in the middle of the course to help an endangered species spawn.

departments

- 8 Going Postal
- 11 Events
- 16 Off the Fringe
- 22 Hole of the Month
- 58 Money Shot
- 70 Tips: Building a Golf Course
- 77 Leaders
- 78 Company Line
- 80 Classifieds

**We didn't get
this good
by accident.**



Liquid Fertilizers

- Nitro-30 (30-0-0) with 85% SRN
- Nitro+K (22-0-16) with 82% SRN
- 18-3-6 with 50% SRN plus Micros
- Triple Ten (10-10-10) with 40% SRN
- Hi-Kal (15-2-15) with 50% SRN plus Micros
- 0-0-25 Liquid Potassium
- 0-30-0 Liquid Phosphorus
- All Season K 8-4-24 with 50% SRN
- Starter Plus 8-32-5 with 50% SRN

Natural Organic Liquids

- Essential - Soil Amendment & Biostimulant
- Companion Microbial Inoculant
- Control De-Thatcher 15-0-0 with 15% SRN
- pH Reducer 5-0-0 (Citric Acid Solution)

Micronutrients

- X-Xtra Iron 9% (6-0-0)
- Micrel Total with 9 Chelated Micros
- Calcium Chelate 8% (6-0-0)



For more information:
(800) 648-7626
www.GrowthProducts.com

Pioneered

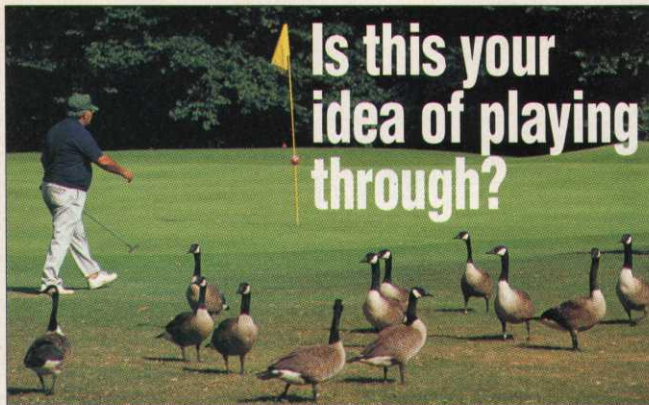
When Growth Products developed the first liquid slow release nitrogen fertilizer over two decades ago, we broke new ground. Our liquids turned the page from granular forms of slow release nitrogen to a new chapter that combined the benefits of SRN with the advantages of tank mix compatibility. While your spray truck is cruising along the terrain applying fungicides, Growth Products liquids can be added right in -- reducing both valuable time and labor costs.

Benchmark

Growth Products liquids have set the benchmarks for quality, reliability, and consistency. For over twenty years we have developed crystal-clear liquids, tweaked the formulations, and pushed the analyses to their maximums. The secret lies in our true hot-blend manufacturing process using only technical-grade raw materials. Try the Growth Products liquid line, and in no time at all you'll be setting some quality benchmarks of your own!

Perfected

Essential is just one example of the perfection we strive for in our organic line. It contains only the highest quality organic ingredients in the correct agronomic ratio of humic acid to kelp. And our Essential label is the most comprehensive in the industry, with 31 guaranteed ingredients. Whether you're looking for superior root growth, lush green color, or soil quality improvement, you can rely on Essential.



Is this your
idea of playing
through?

Safe, effective goose control is here!

FlightControl® is the only product that effectively protects your course seven days a week, 24 hours a day. FlightControl works like a "Biological Fence", herding geese off the areas where you don't want them. FlightControl is odorless, weather-proof, and does the job without harming humans, vegetation or wildlife.

Get rid of the geese, get FlightControl!

FLIGHTCONTROL®

THE KEY TO GEESE MANAGEMENT

Call us: 800-468-6324 or visit: www.flightcontrol.com

Environmental Biocontrol, Intl. a division of DCV, Inc.

CIRCLE NO. 140

Golfdom

www.golfdom.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pat Jones PUBLISHER/EDITORIAL DIRECTOR 440-891-3126 pjones@advanstar.com
Larry Aylward EDITOR 440-891-2770 lailward@advanstar.com
Frank H. Andorka Jr. ASSOCIATE EDITOR 440-891-2708 fandorka@advanstar.com
Geoff Shackelford CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 310-451-5877 geoffshackelford@aol.com
Joel Jackson CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 407-248-1971 figrn@aol.com
Mark Luce CONTRIBUTING EDITOR 785-841-6044 [mluce@sunflower.net](mailto:mluca@sunflower.net)
Dr. Karl Danneberger CHIEF SCIENCE EDITOR danneberger.1@osu.edu
Lisa Lehman ART DIRECTOR 440-891-2785 llehman@advanstar.com
Kim Traum SR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER 440-891-3175 ktraum@advanstar.com
Mike Klemme CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR 580-234-8284 mkleme@golfoto.com
Sue Gibson EXECUTIVE EDITOR 440-891-2729 sgibson@advanstar.com
Vernon Henry GROUP EDITOR 440-826-2829 vhenry@advanstar.com

GOLFDOM ADVISORY STAFF

Joe Baidy, CGCS, TURNING STONE GC
Cliff Beckmann, THE WESTIN SALISHAN LODGE & GOLF RESORT
Jan Beljan, ASGCA, FAZIO DESIGN
Jerry Coldiron, CGCS, LASSING POINTE GC
Kevin DeRoo, BARTLETT HILLS GC
George Frye Jr., OCEAN COURSE AT KIAWAH
Bob Graunke, CGCS, TIDEWATER GC & PLANTATION
Steve Hammon, TRAVERSE CITY G&CC
Alan Hess, CGCS, GOLF PARTNERS MANAGEMENT LTD.
Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, WILDHORSE RESORT
Jim Husting, CGCS, WOODBRIDGE G&CC
Rod Johnson, CGCS, PINE HILLS CC
Tom Kastler, CLUB AT RUNAWAY BAY
Bob Lohmann, ASGCA, LOHMANN GOLF DESIGN
Walter Mattison, (IN MEMORY)
Bil Montague, CGCS, MG
Don Naumann, SIERRA PACIFIC TURF
Jim Nicol, CGCS, HAZELTINE NATIONAL GC
Doug Petersan, CGCS, CC OF AUSTIN
Mike Rothenberg, CGCS, SHARON HEIGHTS G&CC
Ken Sakai, GOLF PACIFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP
Dave Wilber, AGRONOMIST, SACRAMENTO, CALIF
Randy Zidik, CGCS, E.H. GRIFFITH INC.

ASSOCIATIONS



American Society of Golf Course Architects 221 N. LASALLE ST., CHICAGO 60601; 312-372-7090; WWW.GOLFDESIGN.ORG



Golf Course Superintendents Association of America 1421 RESEARCH PARK DR., LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3859; 800-472-7878; WWW.GCSAA.ORG

Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors Association 25250 SEELEY ROAD, NOVI, MI 48375; 248-476-5457



National Golf Course Owners Association 1470 BEN SAWYER BLVD., STE. 18, MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464; 843-881-9956; WWW.NGCOA.ORG



National Golf Foundation 1150 SOUTH U.S. HIGHWAY ONE, SUITE 401, JUPITER, FL 33477



Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment 1156 15TH ST. NW, SUITE 400, WASHINGTON, DC; 202-872-3860; WWW.PESTFACTS.ORG

United States Golf Association P.O. BOX 708, FAR HILLS, NJ 07931; 908-234-2300; WWW.USGA.ORG

New!

Funny Business

Golfdom's Joke of the Month

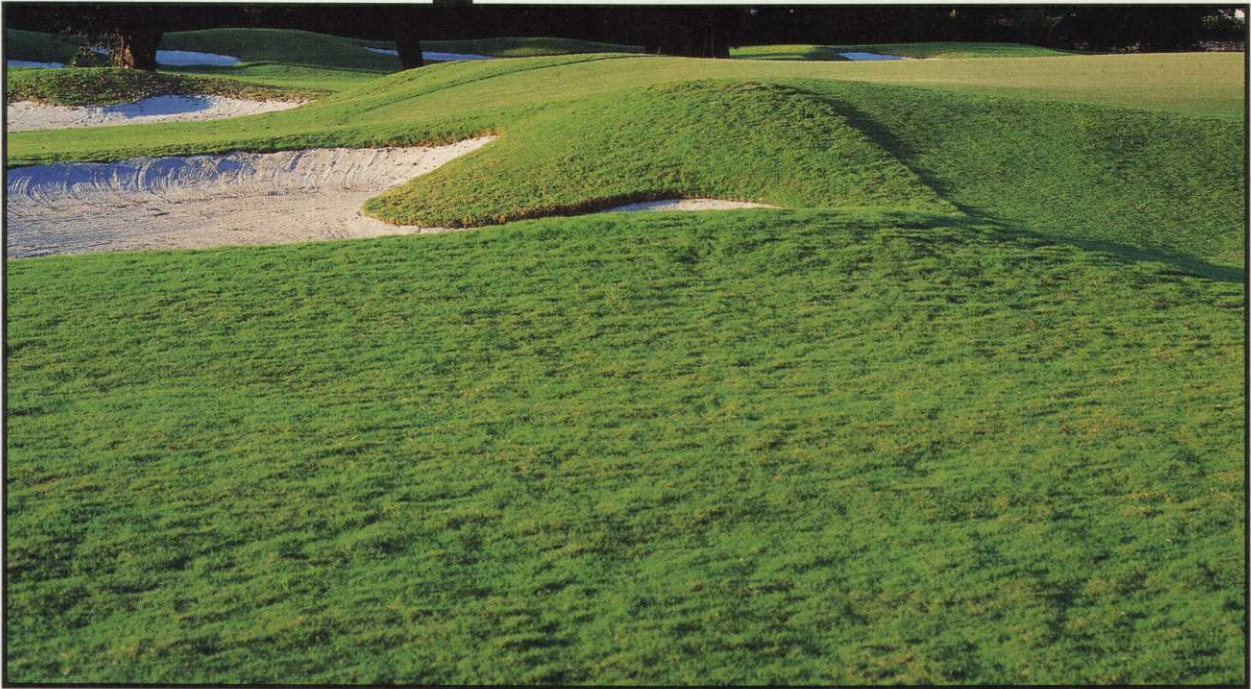
Turn to

Golfdom Classifieds

every month for great deals and one of our favorite jokes!



No Tarps. No Tanks.



No Hassles.

Basamid[®], the only granular soil fumigant on the market, quickly eliminates virtually all weeds, nematodes, grasses and soil diseases so you can reseed in as little as 10 to 12 days. And the nonrestricted, granular formulation requires no complicated application equipment or tarps, thereby reducing your labor costs. **Basamid** is the quick, easy way to get your new turf off to a healthy, vigorous start. To make your renovation easier, call 1-800-545-9525 or visit www.turffacts.com. Always read and follow label directions.

Basamid[®]

Granular Soil Fumigant

Renovation Made Easy.

Circle No. 106

BASF

Going Postal

WE'VE GOT MAIL

Remember the Titans

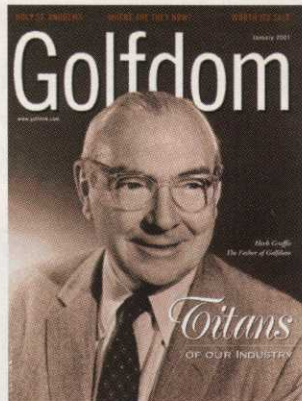
I enjoyed the January issue of *Golfdom*, especially the "Titans of Our Industry" article and the Flagstick column. I also happen to love history, and I appreciate the early days and pioneers of our industry.

The Titans feature made me think about all the people who have made my 22 years in this industry so wonderful. While there are many, Dwight Barkley, my friend and mentor, quickly came to mind. While not a national titan (although he certainly had some national influence), he was one of the founding fathers of the Kentucky Turfgrass Council in 1972. In 1969, he established the turfgrass program at Eastern Kentucky University, a wonderful hands-on program that has produced hundreds of quality superintendents and numerous industry professionals throughout the country.

Barkley recently retired from Eastern Kentucky, but he still remains active on the KTC Board of Directors. He is also known to stop and visit former students.

Barkley is a 1955 Penn State graduate (a Joe Duich protégé). He received a master's degree and Ph.D. in the mid-1960s from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. It's easy to see the influence and professionalism he brought to the Bluegrass State.

Looking at the quality of today's golf and turf industry in Kentucky, it has gone from a humble beginning at Eastern Kentucky to producing many incredible turf facilities, businesses and fantastically conditioned golf courses — a turf boom by any standards. That boom was no accident, and was directly influenced by people like Barkley, who has touched the lives of nearly every turf professional in



our state and region. Cheers to you and many thanks, Dwight.

My guess is that many states have these type of individuals who have gotten little national press, but, as in Barkley's case, have greatly influenced their respective states and regions. I would love to hear about other Titans like Barkley, and I challenge others to contact *Golfdom* with their stories.

**Jerry Coldiron, CGCS
Boone Links/Lassing Pointe
Florence, Ky.**

The article about Carl Spackler (Bill Murray) in "Titans of Our Industry" caught my attention enough to write about it. We superintendents take ourselves too seriously at times and need to lighten up.

Sometimes it's difficult to un-



derstand peoples' thoughts about things (being miffed about a particular movie) because we are not in their shoes. But if people are comfortable with themselves, their jobs and their professions, they could easily see the humor in the movie *Caddyshack*. That said, here are my thoughts on the film.

First, it was one of the most entertaining and funny movies I've ever seen — a must for my personal video collection. *Caddyshack* featured great actors and interesting subliminal messages that one needs to pay attention to understand.

Caddyshack showed the trends and the culture of the time period in the early 1980s. I've watched the movie over and over, and I'm the type of person who seldom watches movies more than once. (That said, *Caddyshack II* was a terrible movie.)

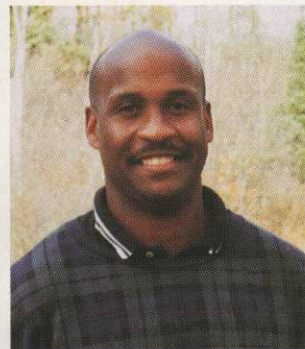
To those who felt *Caddyshack* was a disgrace to our image, get over it. It was just a movie. Many professions are depicted as bad, ugly, unprofessional and stupid in Hollywood.

It was a leap for our profession to even be noticed by the movie industry. It was a compliment to be brought before the public's eye during the beginning of the golf boom. Most people didn't know we existed.

To superintendents who need to blame a movie for their professional image, I say to you: You are responsible for your image — not a movie, not the GCSAA nor anyone else. Look in the mirror each morning and take charge of your life.
**Stephen E. Maas, CGCS
The Valley Club
Hailey, Idaho**

Black Architects

Nice article on golf course architect Steve McLeod (January, Pin High). I did a little research regarding black architects and discovered that Joe Bartholomew of New Orleans was probably the nation's first. He designed and built a number of golf courses in Louisiana throughout the 1920s and 1930s. But because of segregation, he couldn't play on any of them.



Steve McLeod

I found the information in the book, *Forbidden Fairways*, published by Sleeping Bear Press). African American William Powell is also credited with designing and building Clearview GC in East Canton, Ohio.

Who knows? With the success that Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and other pro golfers are having in architecture, maybe Tiger Woods will throw his hat into the ring someday.

**Tony Hourston
Director of Administrative Services
American Society of Golf Course
Architects**

Feel like going postal? We want to hear from you. You can e-mail your letters to Larry Aylward at larry@advanstar.com, fax to 440-891-2675 or send them to: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Make sure to include your name and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length or relevance.

good

UHS brand fertilizers are designed to meet the demanding agronomic needs of any turf professional. These products are built to perform best according to the local needs of the geographies we serve.



better



Our UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "blue line" is comprised of products with the things you'd expect, such as quality and consistency. What sets these fertilizers apart is unique technologies, added performance and unmatched value.

best

Our premium offering is found in the UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "green line" bag. These products feature the best nutrient sources available and are manufactured with an uncompromising eye to consistency and performance. The green bag guarantees ultimate nutritional benefits and turf quality for your fertilizer program.



United
Horticultural Supply

Check with your local UHS representative for more details on our complete line of outstanding fertilizer products

www.uhsonline.com

TOP QUALITY TURF SEED PROVEN PERFORMANCE



PRINCETON 105
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

CRENSHAW
Creeping Bentgrass

Prelude 

APOLLO
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

These are just a few of the top names from more than a hundred seed varieties that United Horticultural Supply has to offer the turf professional. No other seed marketing and distribution company has as many top quality seed products to offer in all categories and is able to serve every level of customer requirement.

Our list includes the most elite varieties for the world's best golf courses to general reclamation needs for customers in golf course and sports turf management, professional lawn care, landscape contracting, commercial turf and sod production.

Many of these seed varieties are included in blends and mixtures to meet local climatic and use requirements and feature pure seed of the highest genetic quality.



For more information and a copy of our *Seed Specification Guide*, contact your local sales representative or see our web site

Circle No. 107

WWW.UHSONLINE.COM