

# The Company Line

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

## ▼ Erosion control blanket

**Profile Products LLC** introduces its new Futerra F4 Netless Erosion Control and Revegetation Blanket, which provides superior erosion control and seed germination without the netting that can entangle wildlife or maintenance equipment, the company says.

Unlike traditional erosion control blankets that incorporate nettings to provide strength for installation and performance demands, Futerra F4 Netless uses a refined

thermal extrusion process that eliminates the need for netting. With two patented features and one patent pending, the new Futerra F4 Netless offers greater dimensional stability, weighs less and is easier to install than its netted predecessor.

For more information, contact 800-207-6457 or [www.profileproducts.com](http://www.profileproducts.com).



## ▼ Seashore paspalum

**Turf-Seed** will soon release Sea Spray, the industry's first and only commercially available seeded variety of seashore paspalum. Seashore paspalum, which has high tolerance to heat and salt, has long been seen as a viable alternative to bermuda grass, but the high costs of time



and money to sprig and establish the variety has kept superintendents from selecting it for their golf courses, the company says. But now the ability to seed with Sea Spray will make seashore paspalum more affordable, easier and quicker to establish.

Trials held at the University of Hawaii show that Sea Spray gained 95 percent soil coverage after about five weeks,

according to Turf-Seed.

For more information, contact 800-247-6910 or [www.turf-seed.com](http://www.turf-seed.com).

## Surfactant

**Precision Laboratories** introduces a blend of polymeric surfactants designed for in-line hose applications. Specially formulated to provide a rescue treatment for localized dry spot (LDS), EZ Tabs are packaged in a disposable container that eliminates the need for handling tablets. Used alone or in conjunction with a comprehensive water management program, each EZ Tab container covers about 12,000 to 18,000 square feet of turf and lasts up to 40 minutes in conventional in-line hose applicators.

For more information, contact 800-323-6280 or [www.precisionlab.com](http://www.precisionlab.com).

## Multipurpose insect control

The science of formulation gets much of the credit for the development of Allectus G, a new multipurpose insect control for turfgrass from **Bayer Environmental**

**Science.** That development of Allectus — containing imidacloprid (Bayer's Merit) and bifenthrin (FMC's Talstar) — was hailed as a breakthrough, in that it represents a product that controls turf pests both above and below the surface. These include all major white grub species, as well as pests such as billbug larvae, annual bluegrass weevil larvae, mole crickets, chinch bugs, cutworms, sod webworms, fire ants and others.

"Customers asked us to develop a single-product solution to multiple pest problems. Allectus answers that request," said Mike Ruizzo, business manager of neonicotinoids at Bayer.

One application provides eight to 12 weeks of residual control; two applications per season will provide season-long control.

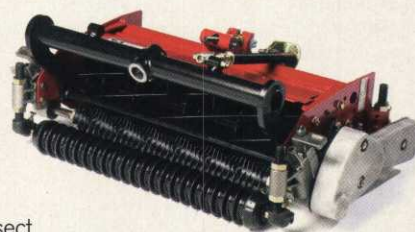
For more information, contact [www.bayerprocentral.com](http://www.bayerprocentral.com).

## Insecticide

Azatrol EC Insecticide is **PBI/Gordon's** azadirachtin insecticide formulated to provide broad-spectrum insect control with very low environmental impact. Azatrol provides all the benefits of azadirachtin, a proven natural antifeedant, insect growth regulator, anti-ovipository and repellent, as well as a toxin to soft-bodied insect larvae.

An application of Azatrol does not provide the quick knockdown of a contact poison. However, 21 days after treatment, insect control is comparable to the standards, the company says. Azatrol does not harm beneficial insect populations, including predator wasps and wasp larvae, ladybugs, praying mantis and other predatory insects.

For more information, contact 800-821-7925 or [www.pbigordon.com](http://www.pbigordon.com)



## Mole control

**Bell Laboratories** offers Talpirid, a bait for mole control. The product's optimal size, shape and feel allows bait to be consumed in the same manner as its natural food. Each tray of 10 worms is sealed for freshness and maximum shelf life.

One worm contains a lethal dose. Special enhancers help ensure immediate attraction and acceptance. Talpirid is designed to degrade naturally, leaving no buildup of active ingredient in the soil. Under normal conditions degradation will happen in about 14 days.

For more information, contact 608-241-0202 or [www.talpirid.com](http://www.talpirid.com).

## ▼ Fairway groomer

**The Toro Co.** has taken the concept of reel mower customization from the green to the fairway with its new Reelmaster Fairway Groomer attachment. It stands up turf and reduces grain for a cleaner, more-uniform cut, the

company says. The enhanced quality of cut improves after-cut appearance and provides a truer, more consistent playing surface. The fairway groomer also knocks off morning dew to minimize grass clumping and helps with clipping dispersion. In addition, the groomer cuts some of the stolons and runners, enabling re-rooting and regenerative grass growth.

For more information, contact 952-888-8801 or [www.toro.com/golf](http://www.toro.com/golf).



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## Out of Bounds

SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

# bowling

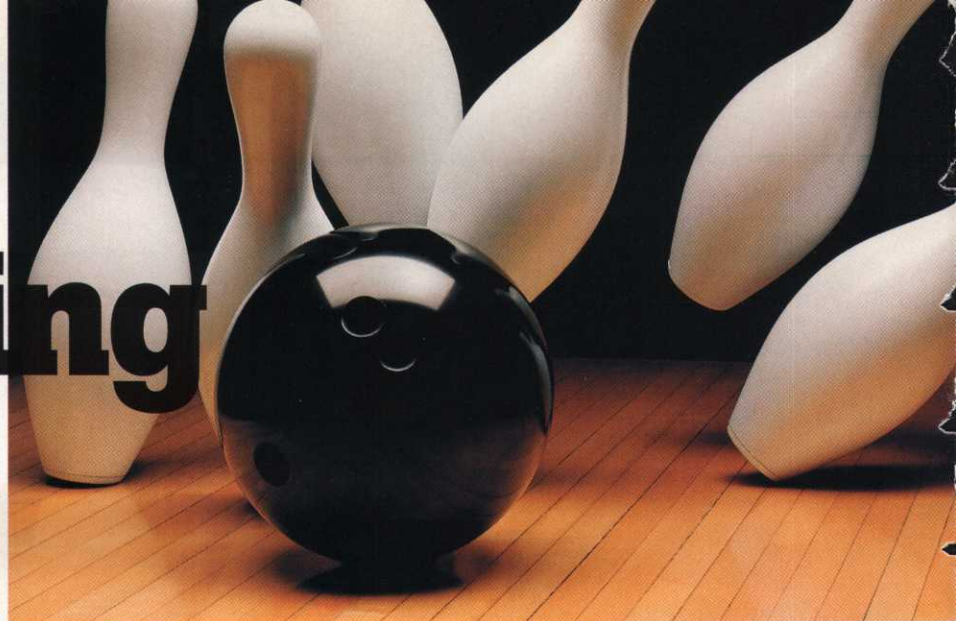
**E**very Saturday for four years, my brother and I spent our mornings at the illustrious All Star Lanes in Salina, Kan. There, when not

sucking down sodas and munching candy bars, we bowled on a team in youth leagues. Our routine was routine: at the lanes early for video games and pinball, snag the shoes, check our averages and the standings, feebly attempt to talk to girls, and take a few practice rolls to prepare for battle.

The competition was surprisingly fierce, as young rollers learn from an early age the art of the psych-out. We scored on our own — spare is 10 plus the next ball, strike 10 plus the next two balls — and there was no better thrill than a string of XXX to close out a narrow match.

While those days are relegated to nostalgic haze and a handful of retro bowling patches atop my bookshelf, the sport (or game, if you must) continues to lure folks of all ages, weights, classes and styles to its crashingly loud alleys. The smoke-filled hangout of ruffians that was the bane of parents in the 1950s and '60s has transformed into a megalane entertainment complex, complete with automatic scoring, waiters and late-night weekend bowling with neon pins under blacklight and rock-and-roll music blaring through sophisticated sound systems.

The professional bowlers have shifted, too, from the staid, polite, small-crowd days of the Professional Bowlers



## A SPIN DOWN A WELL-OILED MEMORY LANE FINDS THE 'PEOPLE'S GAME' HAS GONE FROM NOSTALGIA TO NEON **BY MARK LUCE**

Association Tour on Saturday afternoons on ABC to more brash, emotional, high-stakes events, jammed with hooting and hollering fans featured on ESPN. In a way this isn't terribly surprising, given bowling's continued run as the top participatory sport in the country — 70 million annually — and the nearly \$10 billion a year in revenue the industry generates. Likewise, the cult status of bowling-related films "Kingpin" and "The Big Lebowski" has done nothing to hurt the sport's popularity.

It wasn't always that way. Back in the 1820s, after a mention of bowling in "Rip van Winkle," the game of nine-pins caused such a mania — and a succession of mountebanks quick to gamble on the game, fix matches and other nefarious deeds — that politicians outlawed the game. Being dunderheaded politicians, they only banned nine-pins; so, lore has it, American ingenuity simply added a 10th pin, and thus what we know as "ten-pin bowling" was born.

But it wasn't until the 1940s that the sport really became the people's

game. The advent of the automatic pin-spotter by Fred Schmidt, a Pearl River, N.Y., engineer tired of tracking down "pin boys" when he wanted a few frames, still ranks as one of the greatest inventions of 20th-century leisure. Once bowling equipment manufacturer Brunswick perfected Schmidt's machine, the company introduced the contraption at Farragut Pool in Brooklyn, and an American industry was born.

Today the lanes still have the groovy shoes, and you still have to search for the perfect-fit ball if you don't have your own. But be prepared to drop about \$40 to \$50 for a family of four. Many lanes will now put bumpers in the gutters to help the little ones enjoy the sport.

It's a terrific social activity, and one needs not be a sculpted athlete to enjoy it.

*Mark Luce lives in Lawrence, Kan., where he totally dominated eighth-graders at a bowling party last year.*

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