



Candidates and Challenges — Turf in Two-Thousand

By Gayle L. Worf, Professor
Department of Plant Pathology

It has been interesting to visit with the prospective candidates for the open positions in horticulture and plant pathology these past few weeks. We have some really excellent young men and women who are aspiring for these positions! Not only are they bright and energetic, they are well trained and they appear eager to begin working with the turf industry on the challenges that lie ahead.

We should know who the choices are soon — maybe by the time you read this!

One question candidates get asked routinely is: "What attracts you to the position?" Their answers include a variety of different comments but they are unanimous in their enthusiasm for the O.J. Noer Research and Education Facility! You should know how important that station has become in attracting these top quality candidates to Wisconsin. They speak as one voice when they talk about this first class operation, located right adjacent to a cooperating golf course, and with a quality station manager (Tom Salaiz) already in place! They are really impressed when they learn all this is in place because of the turf industry.

They also catch on rather quickly to the close and friendly interdepartmental cooperation in research and education that exists among departments at the UW-Madison and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Although some realize better than others that carrying a combined extension, research, and teaching load will not give them a lot of free time, most seem to be "chomping-at-the-bit" to give it a try. When asked about their niche, they generally look optimistically toward increasing the visibility of and increasing student opportunities for a strong turf management program on the campus.

And they all have expressed a strong desire to help create meaningful educational and useful research programs in close concert with you. It's encouraging to know that there are still young, highly qualified scientists who also come equipped with the right "Land Grant University" attitude!

We also query them about their vision of the turf industry ten years from now. While they are optimistic for the industry — otherwise they wouldn't want to become aligned with it — they also sense that big changes are on the horizon. Most of them are well read about nutritional and pesticide issues, and they perceive a public that will not allow a "business as usual" future. All speak of IPM and crop management tools — but some go so far as to predict no "hard" pesticides will be permitted on lawns and recreational surfaces in the future. Fertilizer applications may become regulated and restricted; one even predicted that we'll be using ("manicured") clover in many lawn settings in place of fertilizer in some instances. Another expected "prescription approaches" to be commonplace. So they have different visions of the details. But each of them has faith that quality integration of research, development, education and application can carve out for the turf industry a very prominent and promising role in the important three "E"s of the future: Economics, Environment, and Esthetics.

One needs only to look at the headlines occurring in regulatory literature to find support for the changes in attitude and action about our chemicals that are occurring.

The Chemical Regulation Reporter is a good example. In three weeks of issues (April 17 through May 8, 1992), I noted the following topics that could impact the turf industry, directly or indirectly: (1) notice of intent to suspend issues by EPA on thiram, mevinphos ("because registrants failed to provide required scientific data" — this is subject to appeal); (2) groups call for methyl bromide ban; EPA plans phase-out by 2000 under air act (ozone loss concerns); (3) California state appeals court sanctions recovery of (future) medical monitoring costs in DBCP case (DBCP, or Nemagon, was a popular nematicide banned in 1978, and has been linked to adverse reproductive system effects in workers who formulated it); (4) \$3.6 billion class action by prisoners alleges

harm from metam sodium spill cleanup. (Often sold as a soil fumigant such as Vapam or other brand names, 24 inmates who were required to help clean up a spill are suing several governmental agencies and companies); (5) Governor Cuomo signs bill strengthening registration program in New York state. (The \$1 million increase will support new staff in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation).

By contrast, new biotechnological approaches are receiving increased regulatory blessing. A wide-scale experiment proposed by Monsanto Chemical Co. to test a cotton plant bio-engineered to produce its own pesticide gained EPA approval on April 13. USDA approval was pending, and may be approved by now. Five years ago such a trial would have made nationwide headline news! And it certainly would not have received clearance! You probably noted the fact that Monsanto, traditionally a strong international leader in pesticide development, is the principal of this venture.

Yes. The winds of change are upon us. We need bright minds and eager people in both academia and the industry to make sure we identify and direct the right strategies for the next decade. They will be there — in both places!

To Keep Your Course In Classic Condition, Use These High-Quality Products from NOR-AM

- NITROFORM® SLOW-RELEASE NITROGEN
Releases by slow bacterial action to provide consistent 38% nitrogen
- TURCAM® W.P. INSECTICIDE
Controls a wide range of turf and ornamental pests, especially white grubs
- TURCAM® 2 1/2 G
All the benefits of regular TURCAM in convenient granular formulation
- BANOL® TURF AND ORNAMENTAL FUNGICIDE
Controls pythium and phytophthora
- PROGRASS® HERBICIDE
For the establishment of perennial ryegrass turf, or on established perennial ryegrass turf, Kentucky bluegrass or creeping bentgrass for control of *Poa annua* and broadleaf weeds
- PROXOL® 80SP INSECTICIDE
Controls white grubs, sod webworms, cutworms and armyworms in fine turf



NOR-AM
NOR-AM CHEMICAL COMPANY
3509 Riverside Road, P.O. Box 7495
Wilmington, DE 19803

THE FAIRWAY CLASSICS to keep your course in top condition

IMPORTANT: Please remember always to read and follow carefully all label directions when applying any chemical. Copyright 1988 NOR-AM Chemical Company. All rights reserved.