Industry Newsand Newsmakers



Golf course superintendents from around the country were introduced to snowmobiling while attending the annual GCSAA turf show in Minneapolis. Over 50 superintendents and their wives were treated to an afternoon of snowmobiling, courtesy of Polaris E-Z-Go, division of Textron. The company makes snowmobiles in addition to golf cars.

Activated Charcoal Use for Turf Studied

Two University of Delaware researchers have found that activated charcoal can be used to correct weed control chemical mistakes in application and other problems.

Dr. William Mitchell, professor of plant science, and Barry Hesseltine, researcher assistant, have found that activated charcoal or the "black eraser" can often "tie up" spray residues and let a turf manager safely proceed with a new seeding or sodding. Some of the most popular herbicides used for preemergence crabgrass control will also prevent the establishment of new turf for a period of two to three months after application.

Mitchell and Hesseltine say that if, after treatment with a crabgrass killer in April, it is decided that the turf needs reseeding, mistakes can be erased by spraying about seven pounds of activated charcoal on each 1000 square feet. A new seeding can be made the same day without damage from the crabgrass killer residue. The researchers also found that herbicide residues can slow up the growth rate of newly installed sod and in some cases actually prevent the sod from bonding with the underlying soil.

Activated charcoal was effective in eliminating this potential cause of sodding failure. The research conducted ty Mitchell and Hesseltine was reported at the recent Northeastern Weed Science Society meetings in Boston. Tests involved several herbicides and lawn grasses. The tests showed tall fescue to be more tolerant of some herbicide residues than either perennial ryegrass or Kentucky bluegrass.

Mitchell stressed that since a large percentage of the cultivated sod used for home lawns contains cultivars of Kentucky bluegrass, it is important that the presence of herbicide residues be considered. He said it has been shown that where a residue problem exists, it can be minimized or eliminated by use of activated charcoal.

Arizona Turf Conference Headed by Lofts' Ledeboer

Dr. Fred B. Ledeboer, director of research, Lofts Pedigreed Seed Co., Bound Brook, N.J., will headline the Arizona Turfgrass Conference scheduled for May 5 and 6 at the Doubletree Inn, Tucson, Dr. William R. Kneebone, University of Arizona turf scientist and program chairman, has announced. Ledeboer will discuss cool season grasses.

Other speakers include Clyde Elmore, extension weed scientist, University of California, Davis, who will discuss weed control for ornamentals; and Jack D. Butler, extension turf specialist, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., who will serve as conference keynoter.

Also, Thomas J. Meeks, regional director for the U.S. Golf Association, Far Hills, N.J., will describe "Getting a Golf Course Ready for a Tournament." Kneebone says the banquet speaker is Andy A. Bertoni, of the W. A. Cleary Corp., who lives in Northville, Mich.

Landscape Association Names Five Design Award Winners

Residential design awards were presented to landscape architects and installing firms for outstanding work by the National Landscape Association at the recent Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic in Louisville, Ky.

Awards in the complete residence category were given to Green Bros. Landscape Co., Inc., Smyrna, Ga.; and to Chazz Cox Associates and Gateway Gardens, Inc. in Winter Park, Fla. In the multifamily residence category the top award was presented to Wayne Mucci Associates, Lake Forest, Ill.; other awards were given to Foley-Koch Landscaping, Inc., Mt. Prospect, Ill. and Moore's Landscape and Nursery, Glenview, Ill. In the active use area category an award was presented to Concepts, Inc., Ridge, N.Y. In the entrance category, Chazz Cox Associates and Gateway Gardens, Inc. took hon-OTS.