

## REGULATIONS

### Pesticide fight approaches boiling point

After ten years of regulation under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), pesticide manufacturers and users seem more involved in legal disputes than at any other time in the history of the Act.

Hearings on extension and amendment of FIFRA in Washington, D.C., new state laws on pesticide use, and a Supreme Court case to determine compensation to Monsanto for use of its glyphosate data by competitors all have associations preparing defenses.

Green Industry organizations are reacting quickly and professionally. You expect the National Agricultural Chemicals Association (NACA) to respond with "big guns", but today we are seeing very organized defenses being developed by the National Arborists Association (NAA) and the Professional Lawn Care Association

of American (PLCAA) because they have combined their muscle in a group now known as the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (PPPF). This new group has contracted a paid staff and applied to be incorporated as a non-profit foundation through a Washington, D.C. law firm. It has already received pledges of \$50,000 and expects the 2,4-D Coalition to merge with it soon. NAA has asked members to donate .5 percent of their chemical sales to the group.

The American Association of Nurserymen keeps close watch on legislative activities, but is currently adjusting to the retirement of its lobbyist Leo Donahue. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is reviewing its involvement in governmental affairs under new Executive Director John Schilling.

During recent hearings by a House Subcommittee considering amendments to FIFRA, NAA Executive Vice President Robert Felix testified along with representatives of the National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society, and NACA.

PPPF is establishing a group of listening posts to alert the organization of local or state legislation to defend the industry against anti-pesticide legislation, such as recently passed in Wauconda, IL.

The facts that EPA has a new administrator which environmental groups are lobbying hard, that FIFRA is up for extension, and that there is considerably more anti-pesticide legislation activity at the state and local level, all indicate an organized industry defense is needed more today than at any time since the law was passed.

### PGMS seeks full-time executive director

The Professional Grounds Management Society has begun a search for a full-time executive director, replacing its current part-time director.

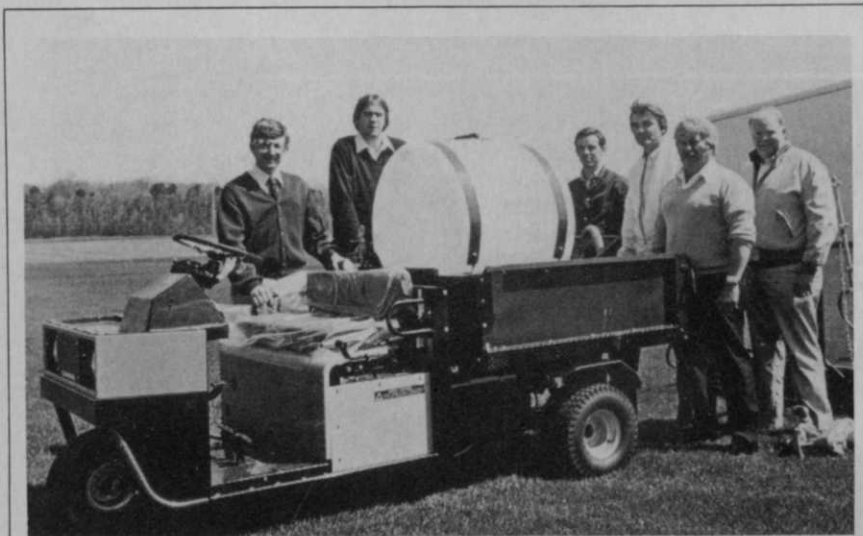
Allan Shulder, grounds supervisor at the Greater Baltimore Medical Cen-

ter for the past 18 years, has been the executive director of the 1,100-member organization on a part-time basis for the past six years.

The move to a full-time director was decided at a board meeting at the group's 71st annual conference in Cincinnati. Mort Rolsky, PGMS treasurer, told WEEDS TREES & TURF, "The board decided that in order to

promote the organization properly, we needed someone who could devote time to it during the normal work day, when most (business) people are in and our members are out working."

Rolsky said qualifications for the new director will be in the public relations, marketing field, a recent college graduate or an assistant to a pr/marketing director. The search committee would like to be interviewing candidates by April.



Drs. Paul Rieke and Bruce Branham of the Michigan State University Crop and Soil Sciences Faculty and Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Board members Ed DeJong, John Read, Jerry Gill and Robert Hope inspect a portion of the turf care equipment recently presented to the foundation for use by MSU. The equipment is on loan to the university through a unique program sponsored by OMC-Lincoln, makers of Cushman and Ryan Turf care equipment, in cooperation with Spartan Distributors of Sparta, MI.

### SEED UPDATE

#### Bentgrass harvest wrecked by rain

This summer it looked like the bentgrass seed harvest would survive the rain damage experienced with the fescue and ryegrass crops. The rain had stopped and it looked like the bentgrasses, the last seed crop to be harvested in summer, would escape damage in the fields.

But, the rain started falling again and Penncross and Penneagle crops are now reported to be only 30 percent of last year's crop. That means less seed and higher prices.

Tom Stanley of Turf-Seed Inc., of Hubbard, OR, said the bentgrass crop "was a disaster". Tee-2-Green Corp, also of Hubbard, represents growers of Penncross and Penneagle.

## UPDATE

**Course remodeling trend growing**

Remodeling seems to be the wave of the future for golf courses.

According to Ted Robinson, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, many courses built 25 or more years ago no longer challenge today's player, who has better equipment and can avoid the original hazards.

"Therefore," he says, "many courses are moving and adding traps, rebuilding their greens and enlarging tees. In many cases, they also are adding water hazards that serve as water retention ponds for the irrigation system."

Robinson said, however, that every remodeling project does not mean a complete construction project. Most courses retain a golf course architect to evaluate the playability of the layout and then submit a master plan that can be implemented over several years, depending, of course, on budget.

Design factors that many architects will review in the master plan are:

- **Tees** - Tees establish playability and are prime targets of improvement. They tend to be much larger and longer than in the past because of the beating they take from concentrated play. It is not uncommon for tees to cover 5,000 to 7,000 square feet in area on the modern course.

- **Fairways** - "Sparking up" a fairway can involve the reshaping of mounds, traps, lakes or ponds. Major gradework may be required to eliminate blind shots or to soften severe terrain.

- **Traps** - The trend has been toward milder convolutions of the edges of the traps and more gentle rise from the bottom of the trap to the top edge. Gentler contours make it easier to cut the edges with power mowers, reducing time and labor expenses.

- **Ponds** - Artificial ponds may be recommended. They enhance visual impact, offering a stimulating challenge if they are strategically placed and serve as a valuable water source. The excavated material can often be used to rebuild bunkers and mounds.

- **Irrigation System** - Good irrigation systems can't be over-emphasized. The trend is toward completely automated systems. Installing an irrigation system is a relatively simple procedure. An 18-hole system can be installed in two to four months depending on the terrain and scope of the system, and is generally less disruptive than club members think. An automatic system can conserve water, reduce labor expense and allow watering during nighttime hours.

- **Greens** - The shape, size and protecting features of each green should be in direct relation to the approach shot. Although larger than those of earlier eras -- a good average size is 6,500 square feet - today's greens should offer variety. More and variable pin placements are possible with larger greens and alleviate problems caused by heavy play. Gentle undulations permit the use of machine mowers and reduce the risk of scalping. The green should be designed to drain in more than one direction. It is possible to enlarge a green and add traps without losing play, but the best way often is to reconstruct it entirely. It is less of a task to install additional drainage than is supposed. Critical areas can be retiled and backfilled and the sod replaced within one day.

## EQUIPMENT

**Toro sues R&R in parts dispute**

The Toro Company has filed a copyright infringement and unfair competition suit in U.S. District Court, Minneapolis, against R&R Product Co. of Tucson, AZ.

Toro alleges R&R, a replacement parts manufacturer, uses Toro's parts numbering system and copyrighted material from Toro's catalogs.

Vernon A. Johnson, vice president and general counsel for Toro, said, "The lawsuit was filed to provide our 55 domestic distributorships with a source of protection that by law is rightfully theirs."

## PEOPLE

**Alden Dow dies, landscape architect**

Alden Dow, internationally recognized landscape architect and direct decendent of Herbert Dow, founder of Dow Chemical, died in September. Alden Dow had a great degree of influence on Dow Gardens in Midland, MI, and is known for his planning of Lake City, TX. He was a stockholder in Dow Chemical and sat on the board of the Dow Foundation, but was never employed by the company. Alden predicted a movement of people back to the urban centers of the country from the suburbs and believed in the use of native and exotic plant material. He was 79.

## EQUIPMENT

**New show planned for outdoor equipment**

After spending years trying to get attention of dealers at the Hardware Show and other general shows, manufacturers of outdoor power equipment have developed their own show to be held July 23-25, 1984, in Louisville, KY.

A steering committee finalized plans during a meeting in September. Represented on the committee were Bolens, Briggs & Stratton, Brinley-Hardy, Bunton, Deere & Co., Dixon Industries, Gilson Brothers (Sensation), Homelite, Kohler, Lawn-Boy, MTD Products, The Toro Co., Simplicity, Wheel Horse, and others.

Although the show is really intended for equipment dealers, it's a good

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### 25 honored in PGMS awards

Winners in the 1983 Professional Grounds Management Society's Award contest were announced at the group's annual conference, this year in Cincinnati in October. They are:

●Category 1 - INDUSTRIAL OR OFFICE PARK IN-HOUSE: Grand award to Florida Gas Transmission, Winter Park, FL; Honor award to Allergan Pharmaceuticals, Irvine, CA. OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR: Grand Award to Martin Marietta Corp., Bethesda, MD, submitted by Chapel Valley Landscape Co., Woodbine, MD.; Honor to Bell Telephone Laboratories, Naperville, IL, submitted by Clarence Davids and Sons, Inc., Blue Island, IL.

●Category 2 - CONDOMINIUM, APARTMENT COMPLEX OR PLANNED COMMUNITY, IN-HOUSE: Grand Award to Alikar Garden Apartments, Colorado Springs, CO; Honor to Reston Homeowners Association, Reston, VA. OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR: Grand Award to Mansion House Center, St. Louis, MO, submitted by Riverfront Landscape Maintenance Co., St. Louis, MO. Honor to Lake Meadow Association, Chicago, IL, submitted by Clarence Davids and Sons, Inc., Blue Island, IL; The Landing Homeowners Association, Portland, OR, submitted by Oregon Landscape Maintenance, Tigard, OR; Union Gap Village H.O.A., Clinton, NJ, submitted by Dubrow's Nurseries, Livingston, NJ.

●Category 3 - HOTEL MOTEL OR RESORT GROUNDS: Grand Award to The Cloister Hotel, Sea Island, GA, submitted by Sea Island Co., Sea Island, GA.

●Category 4 - GOLF COURSE: Grand Award to Ridgemoor Country Club, Chicago, IL; Honor to Bloomfield Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

●Category 5 - CEMETERY OR MEMORIAL PARK: No winner.

●Category 6 - PARK AND RECREATION AREA: Grand Award to City of Newark, Newark, DE; Athletic Field: Grand Award to Meridian Junior College Baseball Complex, Meridian, MS.

●Category 7 - SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY GROUNDS: Grand Award to Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA; Honor to San Jose State University, San Jose, CA and DePaul University, Chicago, IL, submitted by Clarence Davids and Sons, Inc., Blue Island, IL.

●Category 8 - GOVERNMENT BUILDING OR COMPLEX: Grand Award to Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN; Honor to Carl S. English Jr. Gardens, Seattle, WA, submitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, WA.

●Category 9 - SHOPPING AREA: Grand Award to Downtown Tulsa Unlimited Pedestrian Mall, Tulsa, OK, submitted by Tierra Vista, Inc., Tulsa, OK; Honor to Puente Hills Mall, Industry, CA, submitted by Armstrong Garden Centers Inc., Monrovia, CA.

●Category 10 - HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION: Grand Award to Friends Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Honor to University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, MA.

●Category 11 - No winner.

●Category 12 - No winner.

place for buyers to see the latest equipment lines before fall. Manufacturers will have the opportunity to give presentations about products and demonstrations. The show will be held on the site of the World's Fair, the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center.

#### EQUIPMENT

### Mott raises Berdych to distributor sales

Joseph Berdych, a 20-year veteran with Mott Corp., LaGrange, IL, has been named manager, distributor sales. He is the first person to serve as a liaison between Mott and its distributors.

Marketing Manager C.J. Horsley commented, "Joe probably knows more about Mott's products than any-



one, and he knows ever Mott distributor personally."

Berdych sold his first Mott mower in 1957 while operating his own lawn mower business. He joined the company in 1963 as a territory manager.

#### SOD

### Researcher receives \$8,000 boost

The Sod Grower's Association of Mid-America has donated \$8,000 to aid a University of Illinois turf pathologist conducting studies of various turf diseases.

Dr. Hank Wilkinson is conducting research on yellow ring disease, fusarium blight syndrome and other turfgrass diseases. This is Wilkinson's second award from the

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### Drift irks Long Island neighbor

The following article is reprinted with a different headline from Pest Control Progress, the newsletter of the International Pesticide Applicators Association. The first half is a letter to a newspaper in Long Island regarding tree spraying. It is followed by comments by Dennis Ryan, president of the New York Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and Director of Forestry and Horticulture for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation.

*Recently, my neighbors had their trees sprayed against gypsy moths. Luckily, I was home at the time. I noticed quite a bit of spray was landing on my five-year-old son's toys and bikes.*

*When I went to the front of my house to close the windows, I was horrified to see insecticide cascading down on my car, baby carriage and stroller. Everything, including baby blankets, teething rings, pacifiers and baby toys was drenched with spray. Only ten minutes before, my four-month-old baby had been asleep in the carriage. I was very upset. What if I hadn't been home or hadn't noticed the spraying and everything went unwashed?*

*The houses in my neighborhood are relatively close together and many trees are on property lines. Consequently, quite a few people are having parts of their property sprayed whether they want it or not.*

*Commercial sprayers should be required to inform all adjacent property owners of spraying before it is begun. They should also be required to contain the spray, as much as possible, to the property for which it is intended. I realize that it is impossible to contain the spray completely, but the spraying techniques I have seen can and should be improved.*

The above letter was published in Newsday, a newspaper with circulation of more than 500,000 on Long Island. This letter and the feelings it conveys is not an isolated case.

Obviously, it becomes very difficult to defend the tree care industry against restrictive pesticide regulations when, seemingly, we are responsible, through our own negligence, for the fate which could befall us.

Can you answer yes to any of the following questions?:

- Do you send out crews that are inexperienced and lacking in proper pesticide application training?
- Do you allow your crews to continue spraying when the wind is blowing in order to get the job done?
- Have you sold a pesticide application when it was unnecessary?
- Do you have equipment on the road that is leaking or unclean?
- Are you still doing "broadcast" spraying and not target applications?

If we do not voluntarily clean up our act, some legislator will certainly try to do it for us. Don't wait until it's too late. As professionals we are responsible for our actions. It's up to each of you. Do your part!

which has also given him a van to use for research activities.

During the past four years the association has also contributed \$20,000 toward turfgrass disease research programs at Cornell University in New York.

#### EQUIPMENT

### Wheel Horse sold to investor group

A group of investors led by the management of Wheel Horse Products, Inc., put together \$13 million to buy the company from American Motors Corp. in late August. Wheel Horse's



Munn and Hawkins (l. to r.)

sales have been estimated at \$50 million.

The City of South Bend, IN, helped finance the takeover to keep the company there, where it started in the late 40's. The company employs nearly 400.

John Munn will remain the president of Wheel Horse and Robert Hawkins will be vice chairman.

#### SEED

### Robinson opens own research company

Mike Robinson, former vice-president of Pickseed West Inc., has opened his own Seed Research Inc. office to handle testing, development, production and marketing of turf and forage seeds. Regional seed companies will distribute the new firm's products. Robinson's ten years in the seed business includes trading, multiplication, production, varietal development and marketing. He is the current vice president of the Oregon Seed Trade Association.

The new offices are located at 29730 Harvest Drive, Albany OR 97321.