

SHORT CUTS

NO FUN AT ALL...A record-breaking drought along the eastern seaboard tried the patience of many turfgrass managers this year. Lawn care and landscape management companies, obviously, had plenty of troubles keeping clients happy. Golf course superintendents were busy keeping courses playable, despite heavy irrigation. By the middle of July, Baltimore was typical of drought-stricken locales. And in that area, any turf not irrigated was deep brown. "When you go dormant in late May, you don't know what to expect," lamented Howard Gaskill of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation & Parks. "I do know that I've greatly increased my seed order this year. This weather sure does take a lot of enjoyment out of being a golf course superintendent."

WELL-TRAVELED... Patrick O'Bryan of Chicago has seen golf courses in so many parts of the world, he could serve as special counsel to the GCSAA. O'Bryan, featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal last May, has seen land mines in the rough in the Falkland Islands and Soviet gunfire across a fairway in Afghanistan. He has played India's Royal Calcutta course, Iceland's Golfklubbur Akureyrar, and Egypt's Oberoi Mena House, 150 yards from the Great Pyramids. "I've got a bit of nomad in me," O'Bryan aptly claims.

SONAR SYSTEM...In the height of the pesticide scare, the Water Conservation and Control Authority of Lake County, Fla. has developed a system to warn people when any of its 25 lakes will be treated with Elanco's Sonar or other aquatic weed controlling chemicals. Executive director Will Davis puts a notice in the local newspaper and posts florescent orange warning signs around the lake. If that isn't enough, his staff goes door to door to every house on the lake to personally explain the treatment. Still, one homeowner pumped treated water from a lake and killed his lawn. The Water Authority replaced the lawn, but has since implemented a policy to survey lake residences after a treatment and videotape anyone using the water.

FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS... "What You Should Know About Professional Lawn Care," a full-color booklet answering six important questions posed by homeowners, is available from the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. The booklet was a joint project of the PLCAA and the Union Carbide Specialty Products Division. It addresses such questions as the safety of lawn care chemicals and the precautions taken by LCOs. Booklets are 25 cents each. For copies, write the PLCAA at 1225 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite B-220, Marietta, GA, 30067.

CORRECTION... An incorrect application cost was quoted for Limit turf regulator in the June "Short Cuts" column. Monsanto has not yet established a treatment cost for its turf regulator for the residential market. The cost of a professional application of Limit is currently \$60 per acre.