

# SHORTCUTS

**THE BEST OF TIMES/THE WORST OF TIMES.....**Shaun Gayle, defensive back for the Chicago Bears, told the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) that the best field the Bears played on last season was the natural turf at Tampa Stadium...The worst was the artificial turf in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. "It has seams this wide," Gayle said, holding his hands an exaggerated two feet apart. Could that be why the Vikings beat the Bears? "I can't remember that far back," quipped Gayle. Now, about those artificial fields: "We would prefer an indoor facility with natural turf," he continued. "But I don't know if anyone's thought of that yet..."

**SPEAKING OF THE NCTE.....**It was revealed at the NCTE that the University of Illinois-Urbana has the oldest continuous research plots in the country. The Morrow plots date back to the late 19th century. The plots are on the United States historical landmark register. An undergraduate library was built underground so as not to disturb the plots.

**ARTFULLY ACCOMPLISHED.....**Ciba-Geigy, manufacturer of the fungicide Subdue, herbicide Pennant and insecticide DZN, was featured in the December issue of *USAir* magazine. But the article wasn't about chemicals or landscaping. It was about corporate art. Ciba-Geigy has a collection of 540 works of art, mostly abstractionist, displayed at its headquarters in Ardsley, N.Y. (The ag chemical division is based in Greensboro, N.C.) The company started the collection in 1959. Today the collection has been in more than 10 public exhibits.

**B.U.G.S., BUT NO BUNNY.....**The Biological Urban Garden Services, a news and information service for the organic landscape maintenance industry, has been formed to assist members in gathering and exchanging information on a variety of topics affecting the organic landscape industry. By means of a newsletter, members will be able to ask questions and discuss each other's problems, successes and failures. For information about B.U.G.S., send \$1 dollar for postage and handling to Biological Urban Gardening Services, P.O. Box 76, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-0076.

**SUMMER EXPERIENCE.....**The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens is offering paid internships emphasizing practical horticultural experience for the summer of 1987. Students enrolled in botany, forestry, horticulture or related courses are eligible and should apply by March 14, 1987. Students will be assigned to one of three public gardens in the Los Angeles area during the 10-week program, which provides hands-on training in nursery management, equipment maintenance, plant propagation, pruning and irrigation installation. Send a resume, three letters of recommendation and a letter describing qualifications to Janice Golden, Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006.

## CORPORATIONS from page 14

tive Tadd C. Seitz said that the re-establishment of Scotts as an independent company assures that it will remain in Marysville.

ITT's Lawn and Garden Group—Scotts and Burpee—has grown from \$64 million in sales to about \$200 million. ITT purchased Scotts in 1971 and Burpee in 1979.

O.M. Scott & Sons manufactures a wide range of fertilizers and pesticides for the turf market.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Geneticist making strong turf claims

A Canadian geneticist claims his new slow-growing grasses can stop weeds from germinating. Turf industry experts are skeptical.

Jan Wiejer of the University of Alberta claims his fine fescues, blue-grasses, wheatgrasses and others are sturdy, need little care, and grow two to 6½ inches a summer.

A September 15 *Newsweek* magazine article reported Weijer's claims. Weijer told *Lawn Care Industry* magazine that his fine fescues could replace many of those currently on the market. He intends to market 30 to 40 grasses. With the help of a market research study from the university, he plans to introduce two in the near future.

But many turf industry experts disagree with Weijer's claims that his grasses, which are still restricted to Alberta, will adapt to other climates.

"We've had these things come along before, and their adaption is always limited," says Doug Brede, research director for Jacklin Seed Co., Post Falls, Idaho.

Adds Jerry Pepin, director of research for Pickseed West, Tangent, Ore., "I have a hard time believing any slow-growing grasses from the mountains of Alberta are going to grow well in Cleveland, Santa Ana, and Atlanta. This is not going to be a big factor for the fine turf market in the United States."

## PESTICIDES

### EPA decides not to ban alachlor

Instead of banning the use of alachlor, the Environmental Protection Agency, after a special review, has opted for limitations to minimize

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