

GOLF

'Exciting time to grow grass,' super says



Danny Quast answering a question at Jacobsen's College Seminar.

"It's an exciting time to grow grass, and a great time to get into this business," said Danny Quast, superintendent at the Milwaukee Country Club. He was speaking to 38 top graduating turf students at the annual College Student Seminar sponsored by Jacobsen Division of Textron this summer.

"You've got the best times ahead of you," Quast said. "The knowledge and tools are so much better today, it makes the job more enjoyable. Turf equipment and chemicals are better today than they've ever been in my career."

Quast discussed management of people as well as turf, and gave the students a few pointers for success. "If you're dedicated and have a professional attitude toward the job, you'll go far," he said.

Quast has donated his time and expertise for the past 13 years to participate in the 21-year-old seminar.

PESTICIDES

Anti-pesticide law is overturned, thanks to Wisconsin organization

A Wisconsin judge has overturned a Town of Casey ordinance that prevented the use of pesticides on private property.

Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Dennis C. Bailey said "...This court does find and conclude that the area of regulation and use of pesticides and herbicides [by local political subdivisions] has been preempted by federal law." Judge Bailey further concluded that the ordinance, which was drafted by the Office of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor, has also been pre-empted by state law.

The suit was brought by Casey land owner Ralph Mortier and supported by the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition. The coalition reports that the court battle was a costly victory, but one that would have been even more expensive to lose.

Executive Director Russell R. Weisensel is asking for \$25 contributions from individual members and \$50 contributions from county members to defray its court costs. The address is 1400 East Washington Avenue, Suite 185, Madison, WI 53703-3041.

ORGANIZATIONS

CLCA members let fingers do walking

This summer, members of the California Landscape Contractors Association will again get the opportunity to participate in the CLCA's Yellow Pages Program. This program coordinates the purchase of line listings in telephone directories throughout the state. Here's how it works:

The CLCA sent a certified mailing to its members in June that asked them to choose space under one of three captions—"installation,"

"maintenance" or "installation/maintenance"—in the landscape contractor's section of 104 utility directories. Each \$60 listing includes the company name, address, and telephone number that will appear beneath the CLCA logo and the phrase "Sign of the Accepted Professionals."

Last year the association's support for the program amounted to \$20,000—\$66 to contractors for each listing purchased.

Does Your Power Mulcher Go the Distance?

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READERS RESPOND

Has the dry weather affected your turf at all this season?

Unless you've been off the planet for the last month or two, you know that most of the country is experiencing drought conditions which are, in some cases, pretty severe.

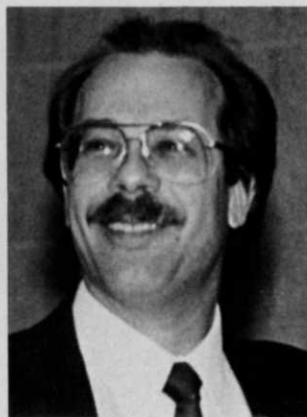
It may be good for the irrigation business, but how has the drought affected turf and landscape managers? During the first week of July, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT asked turfgrass and landscape managers about the drought.



"Lawns are not doing well in some places, but so far we've been pretty lucky. I don't think it's affected our lawn care business. We normally only put light applications of fertilizer on at this time of year. "In the short run, it won't hurt. In the long haul, if it stays droughty all fall, people might do anything for next year."

"We're anticipating more seeding and aeration this fall."

—Paul Schnare, Ph.D.
Accu-Grow
Cape Girardeau, Mo.



"We're working on our fifth week without rainfall. Temperatures have been in the high 90s to low 100s. We've set four records. Lawns are dormant, fairly crisp.

"I don't think the service calls are excessive and I don't think the cancellations are excessive. The mowing crews are hurting. That's where they make their money. Quite a few are mowing anyway."

—Phil Catron
MAVC Services
Damascus, Md.



"A lot of places, including ourselves, are just running out of water. Next week we'll decide if we should stop watering fairways.

"We're finding out what our strong and weak points are. We're not getting devastated yet, but the next few weeks could get ugly. But I'm optimistic."

—Brice Gordon
Jackson CC
Carbondale, Ill.



'Life Chairmanship'

Fred V. Grau, Ph.D., has been made Honorary Life Chairman by the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation after serving 20 years as president. Described as "a man of vision who influenced the future through his quest for new turfgrasses, improved management practices and expanding turfgrass research," Grau (seated) received his award from Eliot C. Roberts, executive director of The Lawn Institute.

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WHOOPS!...A landscape architect does not a golf course architect make, says **F. Truitt Rabin Jr.**, ASLA, who was quoted in our April issue. "(In the article) I am described as a landscape architect and golf course designer. I surely do not consider myself a golf course architect," Rabin writes. "Perhaps 10 or 15 years ago I would have been naive enough to say, 'yes, our firm can lay out a golf course.' But, having worked with qualified golf course architects, I know that the art and science of golf course design is best in the hands of those trained to do it." Thank you for the clarification, Mr. Rabin.

FERMENTA RESPONDS...In the wake of the Prior vs. Diamond Shamrock (now Fermenta Plant Protection Inc.) lawsuit, Fermenta has issued a public statement defending its product, Daconil 2787. Daconil, of course, was declared innocent in the death of Navy Lt. George Prior. The statement noted that Daconil has been used on golf course turf for more than 18 years with more than 3 billion rounds of golf being played without any reported incidents of toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), which Lt. Prior died from. "A review of all medical writings regarding TEN confirmed that Daconil 2787 has never been associated with the disease," it concluded.

CHARTER MEMBERS...Whitey Herzog, manager of last year's National League champion St. Louis Cardinals, and his wife Mary Lou were presented charter memberships in the Champions League of Quail Creek Golf Club, St. Louis. Course president **Richard J. Stahlhuth** and **Hale Irwin**, a fellow St. Louis sports figure and course designer, also presented the Herzogs with an architect's rendering of the course. The Champions League was established by Irwin to honor sports figures who exemplify the spirit and determination of St. Louis sporting tradition. Members are entitled to complimentary golf and other benefits.

ARNIE'S ARMY...Lofts Seed will continue to march in step with golf great **Arnold Palmer** until 1993. Lofts president **Jon Loft** recently made the agreement with Palmer, who has served as a company spokesman for nine years. One of Lofts' proprietary ryegrasses is named after Palmer.

GREAT AMERICAN...You need a trencher? Go with Ditch Witch, *Fortune* magazine says. *Fortune* named Ditch Witch trenchers one of the "100 Products America Makes Best" in its March 28 issue. "Building a family business from a single idea," notes president **Ed Malzahn**, "and watching an entire industry spring up is exciting. We believe it is indicative of never giving up...never sacrificing principles for expediency or quick profit."

PEOPLE

Penn State agronomist retires after 30 years

John C. Harper II, an extension agronomist at Pennsylvania State University, retired June 30 from his position with the university.

"It caught us a bit by surprise," notes Elwood Hatley, Ph.D., one of Harper's colleagues at Penn State.

Harper was a fixture in the Agronomy Department for 30 years. "I just figured I'd worked enough," Harper decided. He will remain in contact with the industry as a turf consultant.

"He was kinda Mr. Turf around here for so long," Hatley adds. "It will be hard to fill his shoes."

Before joining the staff at Penn State, Harper was an agronomist with Toro. Before Toro, he headed USDA's Beltsville, Md. research facility. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State.

In addition to consulting, Harper plans to travel and play golf in his retirement.



Dr. John Harper

SEED

Oregon seedsmen to publish report

The Oregon Seed Council and the Oregon Seed Trade Association will publish a "State of the Industry" report about Oregon's multi-million dollar seed business.

"This report will review our history, provide useful reference and explain many of the technical aspects of the business," says Dennis Hays, executive director of the Oregon Seed Trade Association. "We want to educate our legislators and other Oregonians about how vital this industry is."

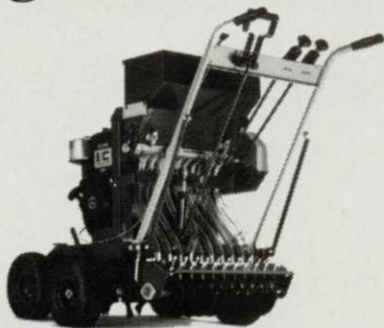
The 32-page, full-color magazine will be mailed in mid-September and will be published by Medi-America, Inc. It will be circulated to agricultural professionals, public officials, regulatory agencies and legislators. It will also appear in next month's *Oregon Business* magazine.

WEEDS

Weevil and spraying control water hyacinth

A weevil introduced in Florida 16

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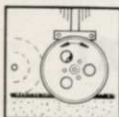
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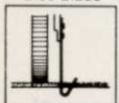
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TURFCO

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NEWS from page 14

years ago combined with more frequent spraying has helped significantly reduce the state's water hyacinth problem, says Joe Joyce, Ph.D., a University of Florida water weed expert.

The *Neochetina weevils'* population in Florida is so strong that hyacinth, once Florida's most prevalent weed, now accounts for less than 20 percent of aquatic weed spraying in Florida, or only \$2 million of the state's \$11.6 million aquatic weed control budget.

"I think Floridians have every reason to be proud of the state's recent record on control of water weeds," said Joyce. "In 1973, 31,000 acres of the St. John's River were sprayed for water hyacinth. Last year less than 5,000 acres were sprayed by state and federal agencies."

Using systematic maintenance control reduces the amount of herbicide needed, lessens the impact of the plant on swimming, boating and fishing and allows some flexibility about when you spray, adds Joyce.

INDUSTRY

Chevron, Sumitomo form joint venture called Valent U.S.A.

Chevron Chemical Company and Sumitomo Chemical Company Ltd. of Japan signed a joint venture agreement creating Valent U.S.A. Corporation, which will develop and market agricultural chemical products in the United States.

The new company will be headquartered in Walnut Creek, Calif., and will be staffed by about 250 employees on loan from the two parent companies, according to Chevron's Mike Marcy.

Major existing products that will be handled by Valent U.S.A. Corp include: Bolero, Cobra, Diquat, Genate Plus, Genep, Furflo and Rhino herbicides; Orthene, Dibrom, Monitor and Volck insecticides; Ortho X-77 spreader adjuvant and Sprout Nip.

LEGISLATION

Court puts OSHA regulation on hold

Enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's new reporting requirements has been temporarily delayed by a federal court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has temporarily stayed OSHA's Hazard Communications Standard for non-manufacturing employers.

The requirements, which apply to LCOs and all other employers who work with hazardous materials, were to become effective May 23. The court ordered the stay a week before that date.

The reporting requirements will not change from their present form with the possible exception of a few industries, OSHA spokesperson Akio Konoshima says. He notes that the stay was sought since the construction industry didn't feel it had enough time to comment on the standard.

"Our recommendation," says Richard I. Lehr, general counsel for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, "is that lawn care employers proceed with implementation of compliance with the Hazard Communications Standard." The PLCAA has available materials to help LCOs meet the requirements, which include keeping records of product labels and instructing employees on various aspects of hazardous materials handling. Contact the PLCAA for more information at: 1225 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite B-220, Marietta, GA 30068; (404) 977-5222.

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