

SHORT CUTS

SAND, SAND EVERYWHERE...But not a drop to use. Most golf courses in Hawaii use manufactured sand because of a 1975 state law prohibiting use of natural coral sands from the beaches. The other alternative is to use volcanic cinder in greens. "Sands are not all the same," says Charles Murdoch, Ph.D., of the University of Hawaii.

SAME THING WITH TURF...Not only is sand scarce in the islands, but so is sod. Hawaii has only about 25 acres in sod production for the entire state. Many new turf varieties must be quarantined for up to two years before they can be brought from the mainland to the islands. Sugar cane is susceptible to the same viruses as turf, and it would take just one virus to wipe out the entire crop.

NEBULUS NEMATODES...It appears that the pest-fighting nematodes which infect Florida housecrickets is a different, previously unidentified species. Grover Smart, Ph.D., of the University of Florida's entomology department told the Florida Turfgrass Conference that research proving the nematode's identity will be released shortly.

CONGRATULATIONS...Gayle Jacklin, domestic marketing representative for Jacklin Seed, Post Falls, Idaho married Scott Ward on December 5. Ward is a management-trainee with lumber/paper company Boise Cascade. Gayle will use the last name Jacklin-Ward professionally.

BALANCING THE BUDGET...Marvin Gross, owner of Marvin's Gardens, Sarasota, Fla., has a favorite term when it comes to balancing the old budget. The word is "wobble-ate," and it means doing some fancy fudging of numbers when appropriate. From what was said at a panel session presented by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, most landscape contractors are adept "wobble-ators."

A PERFECT FIT...Golf courses and homebuilding go hand-in-hand, as housing developments are proving across the land. According to the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C., a residential lot located on a golf course is worth up to 50 percent more than a "no golf" alternative.

recovery in high traffic areas.

Beard feels regular use of iron for rooting will be the norm down the road. While he says that iron exists in the soil, it is rarely in usable form. Thus applications in small amounts will benefit shoot and root growth, color and drought hardiness. He notes that visible results of iron are quick, often less than a half hour.

The trend farthest in the future, Beard believes, is fertilization based on tissue analysis. New technology, he says, will be able to analyze tissue for nutrient content and return results within two days. The cost will be high initially, though, he says.

RESEARCH

Runoff control affects groundwater

The degree of runoff control has an impact on groundwater quality, says Thomas Watschke, Ph.D., Penn State University.

Watschke notes that the main collection points for runoff water are watersheds, which land development often takes away. Not only is the water not given a chance to percolate and filter through the watershed, it is often lost as a resource because it runs off into creeks and rivers and eventually out to sea.



Dr. Watschke



Dr. Sullivan

Michael Sullivan, Ph.D., University of Rhode Island, says that pesticides often gather along with other toxins. Both Watschke and Sullivan agree that periodic flushings, or alternate periods with and without rain, result in higher concentrations of toxins in runoff water because they are allowed to build up on surfaces like curbsides and roofs. When the built up material is flushed, the concentrations are thus higher.

Research performed by Watschke shows that established groundcover will go a long way toward reducing runoff and filtering out dirt particles holding toxins.

Ideally, sod presents the best solution, if affordable. It is immediate and most effective, able to handle the equivalent of six inches of rainfall per

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hour without runoff. New seeding, a more common and affordable practice, is less effective but also reduces runoff in time.

Sullivan suggests a more direct way to reduce pesticides in runoff and groundwater. Use less. Pesticide use has doubled since 1960, he says. The green industry accounts for 28 percent of all pesticides used.

Sullivan believes a trend toward less persistent chemicals is necessary, as well as a push for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on a more widespread basis. "If you don't reduce the application of pesticides, you'll reduce the availability of pesticides," he says.

Watschke and Sullivan spoke on groundwater and runoff at the eighth annual Professional Lawn Care Association of America conference.

LAWN CARE

Tru Green acquires Old Fox Lawn Care

Tru Green has strengthened its market position in the New England area by acquiring Old Fox Lawn Care, East Providence, R.I. Old Fox had revenues of \$9.5 million in 1987 with branches in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Atlanta-based Tru Green had less than \$4 million in these markets.

Tru Green, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oak Brook, Ill.-based Waste Management, Inc., will consolidate some of the two companies' branches, according to president Howard Evers. All employees will be kept, however, and the Old Fox management will be given more responsibility.

Bernard Buonanno, Jr., former president of Old Fox, will oversee all the Tru Green operations in the northeast region, Evers said. John Kenenski, former operations manager of Old Fox, will be the region's general manager.

Even the Old Fox name will remain. The branches will carry the title: "Old Fox, a Tru Green Company."

AWARDS

Irrigation Association honors Mel Hagood

The Irrigation Association named Mel A. Hagood its 1987 Man of the Year at the International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference in Orlando last October.

Hagood, now an irrigation consultant, amassed 40 years of experience in the irrigation industry. Most recently he was a professor at Washington State University, from which he retired in 1977.

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His work as the United Nations' consultant has taken him to Cyprus, Morocco, Iran, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Yemen.

Also, Terence D. Heiler, director of the New Zealand Agricultural Engineering Institute, received the IA's Crawford Reid Memorial Award. He was recognized for making significant achievements in the promotion of proper irrigation practices and brought advancements to irrigation outside the United States.

The association honored Robert B.

Daugherty, CEO of Valmont Industries, Valley, Neb., with the Irrigation Industry Achievement Award for contributions to the development of the industry and the products used by it.

William R. Pogue, president of Irrometer, Inc., Riverside, Calif., is the new president of the association. He is joined on the executive committee by Richard Hunter (president-elect); Glenn Tribe, (vice president); Michael Sypolt, (treasurer); John Riddering, (past president); and Bob Sears, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

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