

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). It requires employers to pay about 80 percent of the cost of health premiums. This will cost employers \$27.1 billion a year, says the government, assuming coverage is purchased through indemnity rather than managed care plans.

The ACA is asking its members to send Mailgrams to their senators that state your opposition to the plan. Make your message short and to the point, refer specifically to S. 1265, and thank the senator for help in defeating the bill, says the ACA.

AWARDS

Software, creator earn award nominations

"Slice," a computer system developed for the landscape and nursery industry, and its creator, Gary Thornton, have been nominated to receive awards from the International Data Base Management Association.

Thornton, president of Thornton Computer Management Systems in Cincinnati, is nominated to receive the Association's Technical Achievement Award while "Slice" is one of four programs nominated for the

"Most Innovative" category.

Nominations were made at the third annual Pro-Gramme Awards Presentation in Anaheim, Calif.

INSECTS

Brazilian fly tackles mole crickets

A red-eyed Brazilian fly was recently released in a Florida pasture in an attempt to control spreading mole cricket damage. The effort was reported by Tom Walker, Ph.D., entomologist with the mole cricket control project at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Gainesville.

About the size of house fly, *Euphioptrex depleta* comes to the mating call of mole crickets and lays her living larvae on or near the singer. The larvae then burrow into the male and mate.

"Ten days later, the mole cricket is dead," says Walker. "The larvae come out, pupate and start all over."

Exotic mole crickets, whose tunnels brown-out golf courses, lawns and commercial turf operations, came from South America, probably in the sand ballast of ships. "The flies belong

to a group of 20 fly species that only parasitize crickets, mole crickets and katydids," adds Walker. "Mole crickets are not that abundant in Brazil. This is one of the organisms that keep them in line."

RESEARCH

Biological amendment shows promise in studies AT MSU

Studies conducted at Michigan State University in 1987 showed that monthly applications of Bio Control from KLM Bio Systems reduced "disease expression" of necrotic ring spot and summer patch on Kentucky bluegrass and annual bluegrass.

Necrotic ring spot reduction was significant after three or four applications, according to research conducted by graduate student Brad Melvin and plant pathologist Joe Vargas, Ph.D.

Studies on test plots at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Station in East Lansing also showed the plant growth hormones and microbes in Bio Control reduced thatch in Kentucky bluegrass compared to untreated check plots. The pathogens of both diseases

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SHORT CUTS

studied are known to survive in thatch.

CORRECTION

Chart, captions were reversed

In the May issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, two captions and two colors on a disease control chart were reversed.

In the article "Diseases of Cool-Season Turf," which began on page 48, the disease identified as necrotic ring spot was actually take-all patch and vice versa.

Colors in the disease calendar on page 50 were also reversed. The chart is reproduced correctly on page 58 of this issue.

The magazine regrets any inconvenience to author Noel Jackson, Ph.D., or any of its readers.

INDUSTRY

Monsanto buys 'Clipper' TGR

Monsanto Agricultural Co. has made an agreement with ICI Americas whereby it gains exclusive U.S. distribution rights to ICI's Clipper tree growth regulator.

The regulator extends tree trimming cycles so that electric utility companies can trim less often.

Clipper is injected through small holes drilled into tree trunks. It slows the growth of a variety of deciduous and broadleaf evergreen trees without adversely affecting flowering.

RESEARCH

ASPA doles out \$6,800 for research

The American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) reported distributing \$6,800 in grants to four researchers who are assessing the environmental impact of turfgrass and sod.

ASPA grants went to Thomas L. Watschke, Ph.D., Penn State University for his study *The Effects of Turfgrass Establishment on Water Quality*; J.B. Beard, Ph.D., Texas A&M, *A Quantitative Assessment of the Benefits From Irrigated Turf on Environmental Cooling and Energy*; Henry T. Wilkinson, Ph.D., University of Illinois, *The Use of Pseudomonas Flourescens to Increase the Efficiency of Water Absorption by Bluegrass*; and A. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D., Cornell University, *Effects of Turfgrass Management on Ground Water Quality and Water Use*.

continued on page 28

THE RIGHT STUFF...Pilot Field, the new home of the Class AAA Boston Bisons minor league baseball team, is made of the right stuff. That is, real grass. Bison president **Robert E. Rich Jr.** notes: "When we conceived the initial design for Pilot Field, we made sure of two very important details. We wanted the sun to shine on our fans, and our players to play on natural grass." The field, sodded last fall, contains a mixture of Victa, Bristol and Merit Kentucky bluegrasses with 10 percent Pennfine perennial rye. The field's irrigation system was designed by Toro Irrigation and installed by the John W. Danforth Co. Others involved in completing the field were **George Terzian** of Star Landscaping, **Jim Hornung** of Elber's Landscaping and **Gerald Rothenberger** of Cowper Management. Also, Comiskey Park's **Roger Bossard** served as a consultant.

PUSHING SOD...The American Sod Producers Association has updated its publication "Guideline Specifications to Turfgrass Sodding." It is divided into five sections: subsoil preparation; topsoil material; fertilizer, pH correction materials and final soil preparation; sod materials and transplanting; and maintenance. For more information, contact the ASPA at 1855-A Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; (312) 705-9898.

BARK WITH BITE...The National Bark & Soil Producers Association has just released the 1988 issue of its Bark & Soil Product Index. The index lists major suppliers of 14 different bark and soil products (from mulch and nuggets to professional soil mixes, peat and potting soil) and another 30 industry service suppliers. It is available free of charge to landscape contractors, nurserymen, garden centers, landscape architects and other businesses. For your copy, write the NBSPA, 13542 Union Village Circle, Clifton, VA 22024 or call (703) 830-5367.

YOU, THE CEO...The Associated Landscape Contractors of America has released the seventh in its series of in-depth reports about the industry entitled "Leadership in the Landscape Industry: the Changing, Challenging Role of the Chief Executive Officer." The report examines the CEO's role, explores his position in an evolving business and details his relationship with middle management. The report's cost is \$5 for non-ALCA members and \$3 for members. Write: Publications Dept., ALCA, 405 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046.

THE BEST COURSE?...Superintendent **Mike McBride** received nothing but compliments from touring pros for the shape he had Muirfield Village Golf Club in for the Memorial Tournament May 23-29. **Greg Norman** said the Dublin, Ohio course was "perfect." Tournament host and participant **Jack Nicklaus**, who developed the course, also praised his superintendent. However, he had to enjoy the course from the CBS broadcast booth on Saturday and Sunday. He missed the cut.