



Burning turfseed fields means black plumes of smoke and possible danger for motorists.

SEED

Seed prices could escalate if legislation to limit field burning is passed in Oregon

Oregon seed farmers have been "feeling the heat" lately. Field burning, a key part of turfseed growing operations, was cited as the cause of a horrifying traffic accident on Oregon's I-5 in August. Heavy smoke from the field blew across the highway near Albany, decreasing visibility like a curtain of heavy fog.

Shortly after the crash, in which seven people were killed and 38 injured, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) banned field burning within a ¼-mile of all interstate highways. Since then, the ban has been expanded to a ½-mile "fire safety buffer zone" along I-5, with burning banned completely in the first ¼-mile of the zone. Burning in the second ¼-mile can take place only with increased state regulation. In addition, seven other highways in the state will be lined by a ¼-mile buffer zone with burning banned within the first ¼-mile.

The new rules were issued via a 180-day Administrative Order that will be in effect until mid-February. After that time, the issue will again come before the DEQ for renewal.

"Ever since the accident occurred, people previously tolerant of field burning have come out in opposition to it," says Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council. The primary opponents are groups

called End Noxious Unhealthy Fumes (ENUF), Oregonians for Clean Air, and Residents of Oregon Against Deadly Sprays and Smoke.

Members of these groups and others were among the 60 people present at a September public hearing where a state legislative committee heard the strongest opposition yet voiced against the 40-year-old practice of field burning. Opponents have joined forces with state Sen. Grattan Kearns (D-Eugene) in proposing legislation seeking to ban field burning.

The state's emerging resistance to field burning has been more intense than that of the 1960s and 1970s when the state gained regulatory control of field burning and limited the practice to about 65 percent of the valley's grass fields. The heat of the current debate led Bill Rose, owner of Turf-Seed Inc., to quip: "Oregon's seed industry is respected all over the world—every place but Oregon."

Nevertheless, Nelson is preparing to give the seed producers their fair say. "The industry is organizing to represent itself thoroughly," said Nelson. However, "there's no doubt in my mind that if field burning survives these attempts at banning it, the present rules will remain."

Dennis Glaser, a seed farmer who owns more than 5,000 acres in the Willamette Valley, agrees that the

days of field burning are numbered. "I don't know that it's going to be this year," he said, "but I'm not optimistic. I'd say the practice will end within the next three years."

The challenge for farmers, says Glaser, will be to produce the quality seed people have come to expect from Oregon without the benefit of burning, which reduces the threat of diseases (such as ergot and blind seed disease) and keeps prices down.

"Our future yields will be less, that's a given," adds Glaser. "Burning does unexplained things to a plant. There isn't a mechanical way we know of that would do the same thing."

The current Administrative Order covers approximately 30,000 to 40,000 acres of seed fields. Owners of these fields may have to resort to alternative methods of field sanitation: propane burning, chemical spraying, crew cutting and bailing. All cost \$50 to \$70 more per acre than field burning.

Nelson and Glaser agree that a sense of urgency exists among Oregon farmers and university researchers to find an alternative to field burning.

"We're not happy about what has happened, but don't write us off," adds Glaser. "We're good learners and will do what we have to do to continue to produce the best quality seed in the world."

—Will Perry

SHORT CUTS

LANDSCAPING

Carpenter takes on North Carolina DOT

Joe Carpenter of Landmasters, Gastonia, N.C. has filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals in his case against the state and federal departments of transportation involving minority set-aside regulations.



Carpenter

The case involves the federal Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations, which mandate that at least 10 percent of funds for public works projects be awarded to minority firms. Carpenter is challenging their constitutionality on grounds that provisions of the Surface Transportation and Assistance Act create a system of racial preferences in awarding public contracts for highway construction projects.

Carpenter, former president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, believes that these programs result in a system of racial quotas which prime contractors must fulfill to avoid a risk of losing federally-funded state contracts.

More than 20 lawsuits have been filed challenging the constitutionality of the 10 percent quota requirement, which was originally implemented as part of the Public Works Employment Act of 1977. In 1982, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act was passed with such a quota.

RESEARCH

Thatch build-up is found in fescues

Researchers at the University of California/Riverside report more thatch build-up than expected in new turf-type tall fescue varieties included in the three-year-old National Variety Trial there.

Thatch was present in all 39 tall fescue varieties included in the trial, ranging in thickness from 0.64 to 1.14 inches.

"Generally, the pasture-type varieties developed the least thatch, while the newer turf types, including dwarf varieties, accumulated the most," reports Matt Leonard, Ph.D.

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THE FATE OF N... What happens to the nitrogen you're applying to the turf three or four times a year? According to Marty Petrovic, Ph.D., of Cornell University, about 60 percent of the nutrient is taken up by the plant, under ideal conditions. Here's where the rest goes: 14-20 percent is stored in the soil, 21-35 percent is stored in the thatch, 7-15 percent is lost to the atmosphere and anywhere from 2-85 percent is lost due to denitrification. Petrovic revealed these statistics at the 65th anniversary Lofts Seed Field Day.

DISEASE UPDATE... Agri-Diagnostic Associates has improved its popular turf disease detection kit. Formerly, the test took 3½ hours; the new test takes just 10 minutes. The kit, which uses the same technology, will be available April 1, 1989, according to Vonnie L. Estes, who is in charge of market development. For more information, write 2611 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 or call (609) 829-0110.

THEY'VE BEEN ENDO-ED... You want a perennial ryegrass with high insect-resistant endophytes present? Try these: SR 4000, SR 4100, Citation II, Commander, Dasher II, Repel or Sunrye. According to 1986 national tests conducted by C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., at Rutgers University in 1986, these varieties were highest in endophyte content.

VIDEO ARTICULATE... Mike Tanzini and Greg Frank have been selected by WXXI-TV, Channel 21 in Rochester, N.Y. to participate in "New York Lawn & Garden," a weekly question-and-answer show. Viewers are encouraged to submit samples of problem plants and insects for diagnosis and recommendations. Along with Tanzini and Frank, cooperative extension agent Jim Wilmot answers the questions. The panel also answers call-in questions and plans several remote broadcasts from area malls for on-camera questions and answers. Tanzini and Frank, vice presidents of Ted Collins Tree & Landscape, were selected from open auditions.

DETOUR TO DISNEY... For the first time in Walt Disney World history, landscape professionals can get an in-depth look at the entire Disney World horticultural operation in the new "Landscape Magic" seminar. Experts from the Disney staff will serve as instructors and guides for the three-day seminar, which begins Jan. 29, 1989. Registration fee is \$685, which includes special rates on accommodations at the Contemporary Resort. For more detailed information, write Seminar Productions, Disney World, Dept. PR, P.O. Box 10,000, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830, or call (407) 828-1500.

OVER THE COUNTER... LawnAmerica Inc. has completed an initial public offering of its securities with South Richmond Securities Inc. as the underwriter. The offering consisted of 500,000 units priced at \$3 each. Each unit consists of two shares of common stock and one common stock purchase warrant. LawnAmerica is a full-service lawn/landscape company based in Tulsa, Okla.

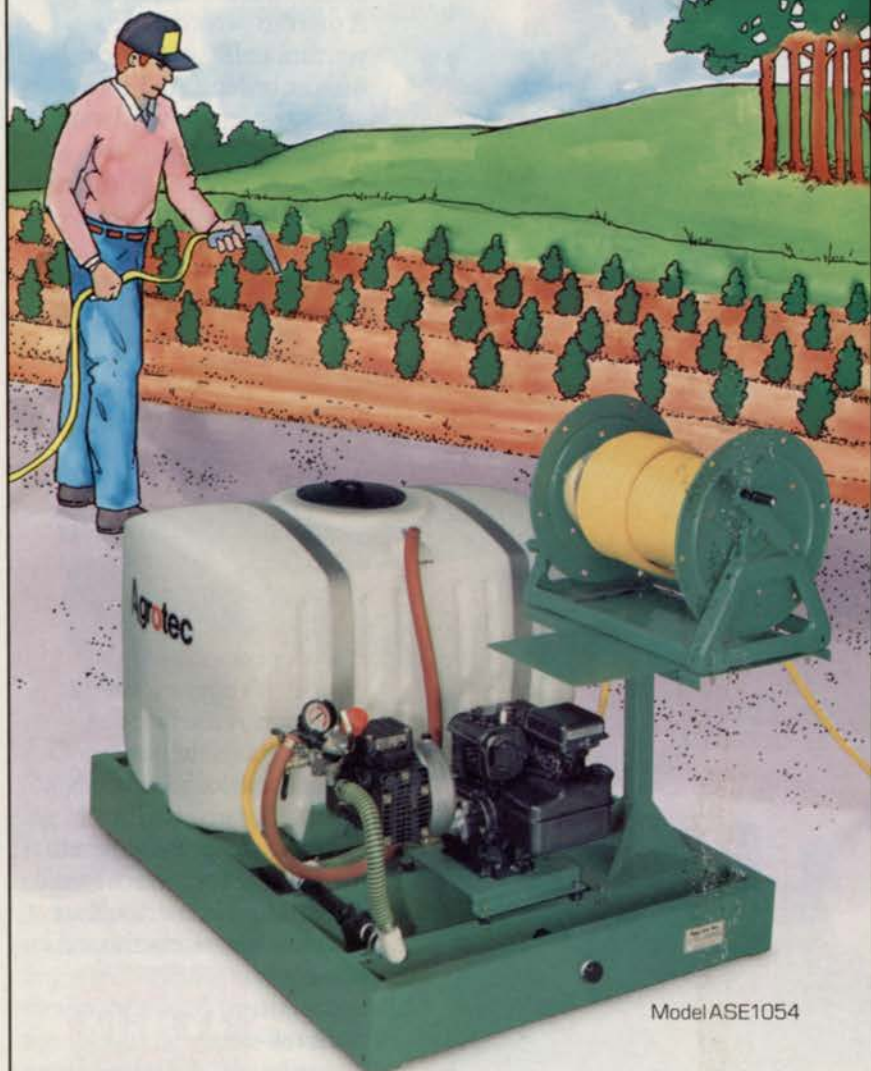
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Leonard, UCR botany and plant sciences staff research associate, said that the thatch build-up was noticed while soil cores were being taken to measure tall fescue rooting depth. This triggered a sampling of the 39 varieties for thatch thickness.

Cluster analysis produced two significantly different groups of fescues with respect to thatch thickness and four groups of varieties based on turf texture. Results by variety are presented in an article titled "Thatch Accumulation in Tall Fescue Varieties," in the UC publication *California Turfgrass Culture*, Vol. 37, Nos. 3, 4, 1988.

"Thatch thickness and turf texture were positively correlated," Leonard notes, "supporting the hypotheses that the new, finer textured tall fescue varieties tend to accumulate more thatch than the older forage varieties." The UCR study is not considered to be conclusive, he added, but it does point out a trend in tall fescue thatch accumulation that warrants further study.

ACADEMIA

Ohio State offers equipment curriculum

A college program that teaches technicians to operate outdoor power equipment will be offered at The Ohio State University.

Horticultural Power and Equipment Technology will be taught at OSU's Wooster branch, beginning in the fall of 1989.

Students completing the two-year program that includes an internship will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree.

General education courses including communications skills, math, physics and microcomputers will be balanced with hands-on and classroom studies of engines, hydraulics, power transmission, and servicing specialized horticultural equipment.

In addition, the students will receive basic training in one of three areas: turf, landscaping or nursery.

Anyone interested in more information about the program can call Fred Lendrum at (216) 264-3911 or toll-free in Ohio (800) 647-8283. The address of the OSU-Wooster campus is 1328 Dover Road, Wooster, OH 44691.

LAWN CARE

Tru Green buys Texas operation

Tru Green Corp. has purchased Greenkeeper Inc., a San Antonio-

based lawn care company with branches in Oklahoma City, Dallas, Austin and Houston. Tru Green has nearly doubled its size through acquisitions since last year. This move marks the second time this year that the company has acquired a competitor with revenues of more than \$1 million.

The Greenkeeper name will be kept for the time being, says company founder James Eckhardt. The company's 55 employees will also remain and Eckhardt will continue to run the operation.

Eckhardt says he was not actually looking to sell when Tru Green approached him. "A lot of it was the people," Eckhardt says. "There's going to be a lot of opportunities for our employees."

BUSINESS

Florida helps fill drought damage gap

Reports from nursery plant producers in the Midwest indicate the drought of 1988 and searing heat may have inflicted heavy damage.

Earl Wells, executive vice president of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FFGNA) said initial indications received this fall point to a 30 percent loss of nursery plant materials in the Midwest. Most nurseries in the impacted areas do not have irrigation.

Wells says that Illinois, Indiana and Michigan were hit particularly hard. He adds that Florida growers will move to fill the gap left by the drought damage.

"We're certainly sympathetic to the drought victims of those states," he says, "but at the same time, if there is a need to be filled, Florida would be in a position to supply some types of plant material which are compatible with conditions in those states."

Florida is a major supplier of woody ornamental plants to many Northern states and the largest supplier of foliage material in the nation.

GOLF

Who to maintain your course for?

Superintendents of golf courses which host professional events must make up their mind: Are you maintaining your course for tournament and guests, or are you maintaining it for the everyday player?

This revelation from Daniel Pierson of Cherry Hills Country Club in Englewood, Colo., site of three Opens and two PGA championships.

"The first year I was here, we tried to alleviate some of the complaints from members by reducing some of our tournament conditions," says Pierson, who moved his fairway mower settings from 1/4-inch to 9/16-inch. "It sure takes off a lot of pressure from the everyday comments you get from members. They really recognize that we're doing it for them, and they appreciate it."

"And I haven't heard anybody give us any complaints about flier lies. The lower handicap members were very concerned that we would, in going to higher cut fairways, have worse playing conditions for them. So far, it hasn't worked that way."

The tees, however, are a different story.

"We kind of sold our soul a little bit," Pierson notes. "I water to support conditions of play and not to support agronomic conditions. I consider that a bit of a compromise."

SEED

NuMex closer to landscape market

Seed yield on a variety of Bermudagrass developed at New Mexico State University has brought the grass a step closer to commercial use.

Arden Baltensperger, professor of agronomy and horticulture who developed NuMex Sahara, says the grass produced a good seed yield on a breeder field. Since June, approximately 100 acres of foundation field have been planted in Arizona and

LANDSCAPING



John Moulder (left), president of Moulder Bros., receives a bronze plaque from Duané Bartlett, president of parent company Earthmark Industries, commemorating Moulder Bros.' 50th year in the landscape industry.

Moulder honored for 50 years of service

Glendale, Calif.-based, Moulder Bros. recently celebrated its 50th year in the landscape contracting industry.

The half-century has been a distinguished one, growing from a door-to-door operation started by Paul and John Moulder in 1937 to a corporation which did \$20 million in business in 1987.

The company received numerous design awards over the years. Twice John Moulder, who took over full responsibility for the company in 1970 after Paul passed away, travelled to the White House to receive special citations. The company's work also received recognition from three national industry organizations and four California industry groups.

Moulder Bros. touch has reached such projects as Dodger Stadium, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Sea World and portions of most southland freeways in the Los Angeles area.

As John Moulder nears retirement he is beginning to turn over operations responsibilities to his management staff, which totals 150. Undoubtedly, the transition will be smooth and Moulder Bros. will continue to prosper beyond the end of its first century of business.

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southern California.

"I hope this new variety will be of good use on golf course fairways, city parks and other large areas where seeding is the preferred method of establishment," Baltensperger notes. (See Nov. 1987 *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*.)

Royce R. Richardson, president of Farmer Marketing Corp., notes that in 1987 some 70,000 NuMex Sahara plants were hand-planted on the 2.5-acre breeder field. "It's all up and it looks very good," Richardson says. "We will have certified seed available to the public in July 1989."

The company was to begin taking orders for NuMex Sahara seed at the Western Seedsman Association trade show in Kansas City Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. The company plans a major advertising campaign.

Correction

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT's September Buyers Guide incorrectly listed Sandoz Crop Protection as Zocon-Sandoz Crop Protection. Sandoz manufacturers Mavrik Aquaflo for turf and tree insects, and Pentac Aquaflo for mites.

For future reference, please adjust your copy of the Buyer's Guide accordingly.

GOLF

Lyon to run for GCSAA presidency

Dennis D. Lyon has been selected by a nominating committee to run for president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The election will be held at the annual convention and trade show Feb. 13, 1989 in Anaheim, Calif.

Lyon is a certified golf course superintendent for the City of Aurora, Colo., Golf Division.

Running for vice president will be Stephen G. Cadenelli of Metedeconk Golf Club, Jackson, N.J. and Gerald L. Faubel of Saginaw (Mich.) Country Club.

Nominated to run for directorships are Gary Grigg of Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, Kans.; Randy Nichols of Cherokee Town and Country Club, Dunwoody, Ga.; Michael Wallace of Hop Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, Conn. and Randy Zidik of Rolling Hills Country Club, McMurray, Pa.

The president and vice president are elected to one-year terms and the directors to two-year terms. Three directors will be elected. The president will appoint a secretary-treasurer after the election.

In related news, the GCSAA mem-

bership surpassed 8,000 for the first time in history this August.

"I believe the association's high visibility within golf is one factor contributing to growth," notes president John A. Segui. "At the same time, our continued increase in membership has also allowed the association to provide more benefits and services, which in turn has steadily attracted still more members."

GOLF

GCSAA to offer management system

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has contracted with Hall-Kimbrell, an environmental consulting firm, to develop an environmental management system for the golf course industry.

The package will include an environmental self-audit questionnaire and notebook along with videotape training materials designed to provide management assistance. The materials deal with subjects like pesticide use, storage and disposal, underground storage tank regulations, OSHA requirements and general risk management. Completed self-audit materials will be individually reviewed by Hall-Kimbrell's profes-

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LETTERS

To the editor:

With due respect to the reports of my contemporaries on the subject of "The Black Death" (August issue), permit me to offer my opinion on the element that seems to be lacking.

Layers occur by intent or by the migration of finer particles. In soil growing media, migration is hindered by the presence of aggregates, produced by the process known as "flocculation," enhanced by the presence of aerobic micro-organisms. In their absence, plants growing in a medium of high rates of infiltration, percolation and drainage, it follows that, with reduced water-holding capacity in the medium, irrigation is needed in quantity. The rapid movement of water tends to assist the finer particles to migrate. In a system that embraces flocculation, it appears that the grape-like clusters of fine particles, acting as large particles with ample pore space, may prevent migration to a considerable degree.

To sustain a thriving biological complex, it is necessary to provide the essential nutrients, which, for the most part, are organic in nature. This implies a totally different system of management, one that is in harmony with the age-old processes of nature.

High sand content of soils in putting greens that were "easy to keep" was a feature of field research conducted at Beltsville in the '50s with co-workers Radko and Wilson. Cup-cutter cores from greens were collected and analyzed for sand content. Low sand content characterized the greens "hard to keep." The "easy to keep" greens showed many large pore spaces in photographs of thin slices of the profile.

This study, lacking final conclusions, was dropped in 1953. It may have contributed to the notion that, if high sand content in a soil is good, why not use all sand? It must be remembered that this was in an area where topdressings contained organic matter and organic fertilizers were in vogue. The biological nature of soil in the "easy to keep" greens was not determined, but it was thought to be high.

Fred V. Grau
Consulting Agronomist
College Park, Md.

To the editor:

Since 1986, I have been increasingly active on a broad range of environmental issues. My experience thus

far indicates that generally speaking, most people who manufacture, distribute, sell and/or apply pesticides are not very interested in alternatives like integrated pest management (IPM).

Officials with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture see no problems at all with the safety of pesticides. If it were not for many concerned individuals, I doubt very seriously that the state would be developing guidelines for monitoring wells for pesticide contamination.

Community feel that many major corporations really don't care about environmental quality, and conversely, organizations like 3PF feel that we environmentalists are a misguided group with sinister motives. Is it any wonder that people on both sides of the fence get frustrated?

I would like to point out that pesticides are not the only reason for problems in the environment. They are, however, part of the problem. We are all responsible for what happens to this planet, individuals as well as industry.

I employ IPM in my business, and have found it to work very well. I use the best cultural practices I am familiar with, and I only use pesticides as a last resort. The only materials I use are insecticidal soap, a sulphur-based fungicide/miticide, dormant oil and strategic use of Roundup. I am doing a lot more hand-weeding, and I intend to use a product called "Sharpshooter" (Safer Co.) for weed control as soon as it is available in concentrate form.

Robert Mulder
Amsterdam Landscaping
Raleigh, N.C.

To the editor:

I sometimes wonder why the controversy exists concerning "VNS" (Variety Not Stated) seed.

For years, the terms "common" or "commercial" existed and described seed which was being sold as seed of that kind. Any reference to variety was reserved for seed being described with a certain variety name, either of pedigreed and sometimes non-pedigreed status.

More recently, sophisticated and astute seed buyers have come to recognize the merits of seed certification, and the guarantees inherent when specifying "certified seed." It would seem that this is all that is really needed; "common" or "commercial" seed to describe any seed which is not

seed of an identifiable variety and one of the pedigreed grades. Pedigree seed merits the variety being part of its name.

"VNS" seems to be some kind of implication that this non-descript seed may possibly possess some varietal traits and characteristics. I do not believe it can be both ways, and disagree with messrs. Olinger and Roberts in attempting to justify anything other than "common" status for "common seed."

Finally, I would point out that it does not really matter whether you are dealing with a "reputable" or "non-reputable" wholesale distributor. If a buyer is not taking advantage of the assurances inherent with pedigree seed, then caveat emptor—buyer beware.

Martin C. Pick
Otto Pick & Sons Seeds
Ontario, Canada

GCSAA from page 17

sional staff to provide specific recommendations and analysis.

The GCSAA reports that the system is expected to cost less than \$1,000, a substantial savings when compared to the cost of an environmental audit, which can exceed \$10,000.

INDUSTRY

Safer adds a pair of new east and west centers

Safer Inc., a leading researcher and manufacturer of naturally-based pesticide and plant care products, is expanding.

Safer has a new west coast distribution center in Ontario, Calif. that serves Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii. This plant will cut deliveries to those states up to seven days.

Safer's new Camp Hill, Pa. facility allows the company to deliver product within three days to New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

Safer, with headquarters in Well-esley, Mass., manufactures and distributes insecticidal soaps, moss and algae killers, a sulfur-based fungicide, a herbicide, insect traps, leaf cleaners and plant protectants to the green industry. **LM**