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Golf

Use soil tests for best care

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Soil test reports are gaining in stature as another step towards improved golf course maintenance, according to Tom Turner, Ph.D., University of Maryland.

The prime motivator in soil testing should be to prevent nutrient deficiencies in turf. Less frequently, the soil test is helpful in diagnosing degrees of toxicity.

Turner believes checks for nutrient imbalance will soon be more common. "Especially with these high sand content putting greens, the potential for micro-nutrient problems increases."

"One thing that you want to use soil tests for is monitoring your fertility program," says Turner. "If you've been in a deficiency situation, test periodically to see how quickly you can start correcting it."

Factors to consider in making phosphorus and potassium recommendations are soil level and soil condition. Sand and clay, for example, each have different nutrient requirements and compaction considerations.

Chemicals

Preparation is best protection

DOVER, Ohio — A consulting and design engineering firm has been formed here to help the green industry develop safe and efficient systems for the storage, mixing and handling of chemicals.

Haskett/McCausland & Associates is designed to provide protection from spillage and leakage, significantly reduce or eliminate storage and disposal of chemical waste products, and increase speed and safety in loading and handling operations, as well as other chemical-related services.

The firm is at 425 W. Howe St., P.O. Box 337, Dover, Ohio 44622; (216) 364-1442.

CONFERENCES

Warren meeting explores drought

AUSTIN, Texas — The continuing water shortage and its domino effects on the turfgrass industry was the main topic of the recent Warren Turf Kick-off Conference.

"The widespread drought of 1988 is merely hastening the focus on a challenge that we must face in this country," said Tom Bose of ABM Irrigation. "We have a finite amount of water in our country—we're not making any more—and we're using it, altering it, or transporting it to booming sunbelt population centers at unprecedented rates," said Bose, who predicted nationwide government regulation of water by the year 2000.

SEED INDUSTRY

Jacklin expands into southwest

POST FALLS, Ida. — The Jacklin Seed Company has established a southwest office in Phoenix, Arizona and a research station in the Yuma and Imperial Valley areas.

Research at the Arizona facilities will be focused on warm-season grasses, particularly the improved and newly released Bermuda and zoysias. Plans include doubling the Aria-