

SHORT CUTS

KEEP IN MIND...that water is the "life-giving source," says **Richard White**, Ph.D. and turf research specialist at Cook College, Rutgers University. White reminds us that 98 percent of a plant's water is transpired, and only 1.5 percent is retained in tissue and is a component of that tissue. And 70 percent of a turfgrass plant is composed of water, says White. Water is essential for nutrient transport, cooling, energy, and growth support, says White. "The role of water is life."

FORMIDABLE FESCUE...A new revolutionary tall fescue has been named Shortstop, according to breeder **Jerry Pepin**, Ph.D. for Pickseed West Inc. Shortstop is a true dwarf that has exhibited the lowest and slowest growth habit of all varieties tested at the company's research station. It has been rated one of the best varieties for overall turf quality and color, according to a press release. Shortstop will be commercially available by this fall.

FOR THE LIBRARY...is "Diseases of Trees & Shrubs," by **Wayne A. Sinclair, Howard Lyon and Warren Johnson** of Cornell University. "It's the best book I've seen on the topic," says **Bruce Clarke**, Ph.D. at Cook College, Rutgers University. The 507-page book is composed entirely of color plates, and is a bargain at only \$49 from Cornell University Press, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, NY 14850.

WOMEN ORGANIZE...The Ontario (Canada) Professional Women in Horticulture meets four times a year. For more information, contact **Brenda Rice** at (416) 274-3109 or (416) 274-6918. You can write the group at 1564 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5H 2K2.

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW UP...**Rick Kuscinski** believes more attention should be given to plants after they've been installed. "Eighty percent of a plant's lifespan involves management, and there hasn't been enough attention given to that area." Speaking at the Missouri Lawn and Turf Conference, Kuscinski said maintenance is a joint effort. "It's best to set up a four-season program. Establish standards for care, and zone the landscape according to degrees of care required. Document the care required during the year to maintain a continuity of landscape from year to year, especially in times of employee turnover."

A WINNER IN VEGAS...was **Robert Morris**, chairman of the Nevada Cooperative Extension. Morris received the Clark County Conservation District's Water Conservation Award for 1988, for his contributions towards promoting better understanding of water conservation. "The desert is a complex area when it comes to water conservation," said Morris. "It's considered to be a resort area, known for its quality of life. But at the same time, we have problems with water shortages." Morris said conservation is a political and economic issue pitting the pro-legislation people against those in favor of unrestricted water use. "I just hope the two factions will find a compromise. We must strike a balance."

SHAKE, RATTLE AND...**Bill Martin** in Whittier, Calif., may want to change the name of his course from Friendly Hills to Rolling Hills. The epicenter of the earthquake that registered 6.1 on the Richter Scale last October was located in about the same area as the country club. "The course did fine, Martin wrote in *TurfComms*, "but some of the members' homes did not."

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RESEARCH

Potassium is an O-'K' element

ST. LOUIS — Paul Roberts, Ph.D., believes that too many turfgrass experts are overlooking the importance of high amounts of potassium in their turf's diet. Speaking at the Missouri Lawn and Turf Conference here, Roberts revealed results of his recent research.

Roberts found the benefits of potassium include better temperature disease tolerance and that potassium readily leaches, or adheres to and remains in sand, a feature that aids golf course supers who are converting more to sand putting greens. General benefits of potassium, according to Roberts, are improved heat, cold and wear tolerance.

"Potassium-nourished greens come out of drought well," says Roberts, which will come in handy should drought conditions continue in 1989. Roberts also credits potassium with imparting a high degree of disease resistance, and improved rooting systems.

Finally, Roberts believes potassium is essential for carbohydrate synthesis, protein synthesis, regulation of transpiration and chlorophyll development.

The tests were taken at Meramec Community College in conjunction with the University of Missouri and the Mississippi Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association. □

LEGISLATION

Reminder: OSHA remains in effect

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — If you haven't checked in at the clubhouse for the mail lately, you might be in the dark about the latest guidelines concerning hazardous chemicals.

Speaking to members of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association, George Hamilton, Ph.D. and