



Dr. Tony Koski

these grasses green up in spring without additional fertilization.

Less mowing is required because late season fertilization avoids a burst of spring growth and the resultant need to mow, they said.

Koski and Street also found that urea and Lawn Restore, both organic fertilizers, provide the best late fall/early winter turf color when applied at a 1 lb. of N per 1,000 sq. ft. rate, in late September to late October.

The best early spring color was seen with IBDU and Scotts 41-0-0 applied at the same time and rates as urea and Lawn Restore.

More information on late season fertilization in "Research Update" next month.—ED. □

REFERENCE

News bulletin for busy managers

CINCINNATI—A monthly newsletter for property managers is now also available to landscapers and chemical lawn care companies.

Landscapes and Grounds Care Bulletin is meant to foster appreciation for commercial landscape work, increase sales through education and to give busy managers a way to stay in touch with clients.

Future bulletins will include information on chemical trimming and vegetation control, and weed control.

For more information, contact Focal Point Communications at (800) 525-6999. □

PRODUCTS

New technology in fertilizers has one application per year

MILPITAS, Calif. — Sierra Chemical Co. has released to the turf industry a revolutionary new fertilizer. Called Customblen, these resin-coated controlled-release fertilizers are based upon Sierra's Osmocote technology. They release nutrients to the turf plant for up to one year with one application.

The product has been used in the nursery market for the last 20 years, but is new to turf.

"Sierra has recently developed a line of products for both turf and ornamental use in landscape, lawn care and golf course applications," claims marketing manager Mark Broxon. "University turfgrass researchers are testing controlled release fertilizer (CRF) products this year.

Response from distributors, landscape managers and superintendents to these materials so far has been excellent."

The resin coating releases the nutrients in a different manner than slow-release materials like sulfur-coated urea. Osmocote's nutrient release is strictly dependent on temperature. "When the temperature is higher, the plant needs more nutrients—but not enough to burn it. These products release nutrients in accordance with turf and plant growth needs," says Broxon.

Two longevities (5- to 6-month and 8- to 9-month) are available and under trial. The 8- to 9-month release formula would be used for the majority of the country, including most

Midwest, lower East Coast and West Coast areas. The 5- to 6-month formulation would be used in northern climates like the upper Midwest, North and New England. For Sunbelt areas, two applications of the 8- to 9-month release products are recommended.

Turfgrass analyses available are 34-0-7; 24-6-10; 0-0-46; and 25-0-18. A 15-12-13 flower and ornamental fertilizer is available in 5- to 6-month longevity only.

"These products are expensive to make and use, but a single application is the selling point," Broxon concludes.

For more information, write Sierra at 1001 Yosemite Dr., Milpitas, CA 95035; or phone (800) 492-8255. □

XERISCAPE

New garden illustrates conservation and beauty

MESA, Ariz. — To demonstrate the water conservation properties and beauty of xeriscaping, a one-acre xeriscape garden was recently opened for public viewing here.

The result of a joint venture between Mesa Community College, Salt River Project and the city of Mesa, the garden provides examples of new design possibilities, and ways to replace or modify existing landscapes to make them more water efficient.

"This was definitely a community project," says Paul Freestone, water conservation specialist for the city of Mesa. "We started the garden with \$25,000 in cash and ended up with a landscape project worth approximately \$150,000." Thirty-nine landscape and irrigation companies donated time and material to



Ron Dinchak, Mesa Community College life science instructor (kneeling), explains planting techniques to his students.

the garden, and local citizens donated their time to complete the project. Extra help was provided by the University of Arizona Extension Service and Arizona State University's Graphic Arts Department.

The garden features 150 varieties of shrubs and

ground covers, 60 varieties of trees and three types of turfgrasses. All are zoned in accordance with their water needs and sun exposure. Signs posted throughout the garden identify the various plants and explain the principles of xeriscaping. □