

SHORT CUTS

TURFGRASS PLUGS...Milt Engelke, Ph.D. at Texas A&M University, recently got a chance to plug the turfgrass industry when he was interviewed by The Associated Press. Engelke told the AP that last summer's drought "was like a Sunday school picnic. It's going to get a lot worse." He also told the reporter that the Texas A&M lab keeps artificial turf around "to clean our shoes."

A COLORFUL ADDITION...Multi-colored cotton lint plants are available from the Southern Crops Laboratory in College Station, Texas. **A. Edward Percival**, geneticist, has cotton lint plants in green, many shades of brown, khaki and chocolate. **Shull Vance**, golf course superintendent at The Country Club of Mobile, has planted many varieties of the ornamental and brown lint cotton. Vance wrote to us to say he planted them "in containers for display, in a planter next to one of the club's swimming pools, and a few rows back of the No. 14 tee." To obtain the cotton seeds, write to the Crop Germplasm Research Unit, P.O. Drawer N, College Station, Texas 77841.

A WEALTH OF TREES...Ever consider how much value a tree adds to the landscape? The United States Forest Service has the answer. According to the USFA, trees can contribute an average of seven percent to the value of a half-acre home site and as much as 27 percent of the appraised value of the property.

NEW ENTERPRISE...Robert Scobee, former market development and sales manager for The Andersons' Lawn Products Division, has formed New Trends Marketing, a product sales/development venture to assist turf care product manufacturers penetrate lawn and garden markets. For more information, call Scobee at (419) 874-4019 in Perrysburg, Ohio.

R_x FOR A LEGEND...The "Lover's Oak" in Brunswick, Ga. is 900 years old, according to legend. When members of the American Society of Consulting Arborists visited it, they determined that a general lack of maintenance had resulted in serious decay and hazardous liability potential. ASCA executive director **Jack Siebenthaler**, one of the visitors, offered the organization's assistance at no charge to the city. They will recommend possible courses of action for providing a longer and more useful life for the tree so that future generations can enjoy it in complete safety. Using the latest scientific methods, they also hope to determine the tree's actual age.

BURNING from page 11

across Oregon's Interstate 5 obscured drivers' vision, resulting in a multi-vehicle pile-up.

Seed producers are allowed to burn 200,000 acres this season—on days when conditions are right—an amount Clarence Simmons is happy with, but neither he nor other producers look forward to an outright ban. "Our fescues have to be burned, there's just no way out," insists Simmons, who operates Clarence Simmons Farms, Inc.

Two bills are under consideration by the Oregon legislature. A bill sponsored by Ron Cease seeks a three-year phase-down of burning. Sen. Grattan Kearns's bill would require an immediate ban.

The Oregon Seed Council says a three-year phase-down does not give producers enough time to determine the yields produced by alternatives to burning. □

LAWN CARE

ChemLawn after biopesticides

COLUMBUS, OH — ChemLawn Services Corp. is looking toward Ecogen, a small Pennsylvania company for strains of insecticidal bacteria from which it will develop biopesticides, a cheaper, more effective method of pest control in lawns and ornamental plants.

Under the agreement, ChemLawn will formulate the product from the strains and perform field trials. Exactly what pests will be targeted or when the product is to be released has not yet been determined, according to ChemLawn spokesperson Deb Strohmeier.

Ecogen has as many as 7,000 strains of bacteria, called Bt, for *Bacillus thuringiensis*. These bacterial proteins kill insects upon ingestion.

There are a few Bt-based products for homeowners already on the market.

According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, the in-

creased sensitivity of homeowners to chemicals has led ChemLawn to look for alternatives to battling pests traditionally controlled with chemicals. □

INSECTS

New product fights deer tick

BOSTON — EcoHealth, Inc. says its new product, Damminix, has proven to be more than 97 percent effective in reducing the number of Lyme disease-infected deer ticks on treated property. The product could be a major weapon in the battle against Lyme disease, which is carried by the deer tick.

According to EcoHealth, the findings were based on tests conducted in 1988 by the Connecticut Parks Department, the Nature Conservancy on Shelter Island, the Trustees of Reservation in Ipswich, Mass., and the New York State departments of Health and Parks and Recreation.

"These tests show that Damminix can play a major role in controlling this serious public health problem," says Alexander Kovel, president of Boston-based EcoHealth.

Developed by three scientists from Harvard's School of Public Health, Damminix works by focussing on the tick, *Ixodes dammini*, which carries the disease. Although adult ticks feed on deer, the immature ticks feed on the white-footed mouse, which carries the disease.

Damminix consists of biodegradable cardboard tubes filled with cotton balls soaked in permethrin, a mild insecticide. The tubes are placed in a grid pattern in the affected area in the spring and late summer. Mice then gather the cotton balls and bring them back to their nests where the treated cotton kills the ticks without harming the mice.

Damminix is registered with the EPA and in 12

states where Lyme disease has been detected. □

ASSOCIATIONS

Cleaning up groundwater

CLEVELAND — "If we don't take an active role in finding answers to the groundwater questions, somebody is going to do it for us."

Those words, spoken by John Thorne of Dupont, signal the formation of the Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment (A.C.R.E.).

A.C.R.E. is an educational effort being undertaken by 20 primary producers of agricultural pesticides, including ones used on trees and turf. Those 20 companies produce 90 percent of the pesticides used in the United States.

The major objective of A.C.R.E., a non-profit organization, is to help protect ground and surface water

quality. A.C.R.E. members will receive 12 fact sheets per year and a quarterly newsletter. The organization will promote a Speaker's Bureau and a Speaker's Bank. It will hold roundtables in Ohio, North Carolina, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and two more agriculturally-oriented states. It will provide print and broadcast "public service announcements" to members.

Most information will deal with good management practices when handling, applying, storing and disposing of crop protection chemicals.

In a visit to LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT magazine, A.C.R.E. executive director Patrick Haggerty acknowledged the fact that the green industry is indeed an important member of the agricultural community because of its high visibility among urban and suburban homeowners.

Membership in A.C.R.E.

is free of charge, as it is completely supported by the chemical companies. To become a member of A.C.R.E., call (800) 545-5410. □

TREES

Global Releaf will cool planet

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Global Releaf, a national tree-planting campaign by the American Forestry Association (AFA), is aimed at reducing high temperatures associated with the "greenhouse effect." The program's goal is to get people to plant 100 million trees in communities by 1992.

"Present global temperatures are the highest since records have been kept," says Dr. Michael J. Walterscheid, forestry specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. "Trees planted around homes and in communities

would break up 'heat islands' by shading buildings and concrete."

Tropical zones are losing forests to agricultural conversion at an estimated rate of 28 million acres per year, and urban expansion replaces trees with acres of concrete every day. If present trends continue, scientists estimate the level of atmospheric carbon dioxide (which creates the "greenhouse effect") will double, raising U.S. temperatures 6 to 12°F in a few decades.

The 100 million new trees could offset America's carbon dioxide emissions by 18 million tons a year and at the same time save American consumers \$4 billion annually in energy costs, according to AFA estimates.

"Three well-placed trees around a house can cut home air conditioning energy needs by 10 to 50 percent," Walterscheid notes.

Trees planted in rural

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