

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

SEED

U.S. economy and weather influence turfseed buyers

NATIONAL REPORT — A number of turfseed varieties appear to be readily available at fair prices, say golf course superintendents and landscapers.

Indeed, recent reports out of the Pacific Northwest, where most of the world's turfseed is produced, indicate that there may be an oversupply of many varieties. Whether the current economic recession has an impact on seed use this spring and summer remains to be seen.

One superintendent that it won't affect is Jerry Coldiron of Boone Links Golf Course in Florence, Ky.

"The recession is not affecting our course at all," Coldiron admits. "We're recession-proof; Boone Links is in the greater Cincinnati airport area, where things are booming.

"Chemicals are getting so expensive, though, that I don't mind losing a little grass. It's just a personal philosophy, but I've actually been doing more renovation lately and using more seed, especially perennial ryegrass."

Seed buyers in parts of California may be challenged by drought.

Conditions are "very serious," says Peter Prentice, superintendent at San Luis Bay Golf Course in Atascadero, midway between San Francisco and



Jerry Coldiron: more seeding rather than less.

Los Angeles.

Prentice now has kikuyugrass on fairways and roughs. He has ordered modest amounts of a ryegrass blend and bentgrass.

For drought conditions, Prentice will also likely look to both turf-type tall fescue and buffalograss. In any case, he intends to make only modest seed purchases.

A different picture emerges for northern California golf course superintendent Donald Roller at Eureka Golf Course.

Roller, who buys seed locally and not often in bulk, has successfully maintained plush tee and fairway areas with only spot plantings of ryegrass.

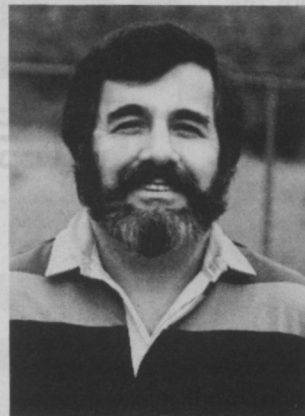
A continent away, Tom Humphreys of Ireland-

Gannon Associates, a residential landscaping firm in Norwich, (central) N.Y., usually makes a modest one-ton seed purchase each season.

Availability and price fluctuation have not been problems in his area. The only small change the firm may make is to experiment in some varieties to combat a fungus problem.

Landscaper Dennis Dautel of Clean Cut in Austin, Tex., has found a dwarf fescue to be particularly drought-resistant in his working area, but the solution to another common problem eludes him.

"We are trying to develop a seeding which will be a year-long program—one we won't have to overseed, which can be expensive," says Dautel.



Norman Gray, Jr.: seed prices generally lower.

Dautel notes availability of most common seeds is good in east central Texas. The company is not shopping price this spring.

Norman Gray, Jr. of Transit Seeding, Norfolk, Mass., likes what he sees.

"A year-and-a-half, two years ago," remembers Gray, "the issue was water conservation. The better bluegrass blends would have 40 to 50 percent bluegrass in them. The balance would be fescue or perennial rye."

In response to dry weather, Transit offered mixtures with 25 percent bluegrass, the rest rye and fescue.

Although drought is not a big challenge in the East, Gray says he still recommends drought-tolerant blends, unless the customer is set on more bluegrass.

For low-maintenance needs, such as hard-to-reach slopes, Gray uses a blend dominant in K-31 tall fescue, clover and red top.

"Then, of course, we get the customer who wants low maintenance and aesthetic appeal," in which case Gray recommends a wildflower seeding in combination with hard fescue.

"Seed is definitely available at lower prices since last fall," says Gray. "We've been able to modify our prices downward where able." □

Departing president urges responsible management, education on golf front

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The role of the golf course superintendent is changing and intensifying, says Gerald Faubel.

In his final speech as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Faubel said watchwords are "environment" and "education."

"We are on the brink of new understanding based on scientific research of the uses and benefits of golf courses and the urban and suburban ecosystems they provide," he said.

"The environmental agenda will continue to create new challenges that will demand an action of the golf course industry," promised Faubel. "It is important as stewards of the land to be leaders in the environmental arena."

Faubel, superintendent of the Saginaw Country Club in Saginaw, Mich., said the Turfgrass Information Center (TGIF) at Michigan State University offers the most current technical information to superintendents through computer link-up, telephone and mail response.

That service is coupled with the association's six-point Environmental Maintenance Program (EMP), an educational series that Faubel said raises professional standards.

The EMP, with 14 seminars now under development, focuses on underground storage tanks, integrated plant management, employee safety, water quality and application, golf course development and storage, disposal and recycling.

Faubel said superintendents with those skills and other professional certifications in the resume will be in demand in years ahead.

Faubel also advised superintendents to cultivate contacts with local media,



Shown here are the GCSAA's board of directors for 1991-92, left to right: (standing) directors Charles Passios, Randall Zidik, Joseph Baidy, Gary Grigg, Bruce Williams; (seated) Randy Nichols, secretary/treasurer; Gerald Faubel, immediate past president; Stephen Cadenelli, president; William Roberts, vice-president. All are certified golf course superintendents.

Knowledge essential, says new president

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — President Bush wanted to be "the education president."

Stephen Cadenelli wants to forge a similar path, but for golf course superintendents.

The new president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSAA) says "professionalism through education" is a motto he plans to live by throughout his GCSAA term and beyond.

"I never want to stop learning, says the GCSAA's 55th president, who is the superintendent at the Metedeconk National Golf

Club, Jackson, N.J.

"I don't believe there is a substitute for education. I truly believe there will be no way to survive and function in this world as a turfgrass manager without a broad educational background."

Environmental issues are at the top of Cadenelli's "to do" list, primarily in areas of professional and public education.

"It is essential that GCSAA help its members meet their responsibilities to the environment. We also must go on educating the public as to the benefits

of golf courses and of the fact that, in the capable hands of highly educated superintendents, golf courses are a positive contributor to the environment," Cadenelli says.

According to Cadenelli, a "continued working relationship" between the United States Golf Association and the Environmental Protection Agency bodes well for golf. "The results from these efforts," says Cadenelli, "will help insure the game's future."

More than 16,400 people attend the association's show here in February. □

get involved in area government and work to create a positive public perception of the value of green space in the community.

"Golf courses," Faubel said, "are assets to the community. This must be communicated to the public (and) it is our job to do so."

"Any instance of non-compliance can and will be magnified under the close scrutiny of the public and media," he said.

—Jack Simonds □

MANAGEMENT

Planning your business

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — From Smith-Huston, Inc., a management consultant firm, comes a new book called "Strategic Planning for Landscape and Irrigation Contractors."

The \$49 book provides a step-by-step guide for analyzing your business and includes a 12-month plan of practical steps to make business improvement changes.

The book was written with strategic planning processes for landscapers and irrigation contractors who generally operate under \$10 million in gross annual sales.

Address for Smith-Huston, which also offers other business services, is: P.O. Box 4433, Oceanside, CA 92052. □

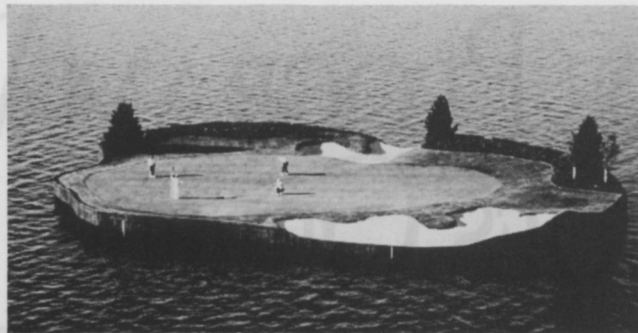
Unique floating green 'nothing special' to keep up, according to superintendent

COEUR D'ALENE, Ida. — The world's first floating golf green was unveiled at Coeur d'Alene Resort's golf course here April 1.

The 14th green floats between 100 and 150 yards offshore. To golfers, it will look much like any other green, complete with trees, sand traps, flower beds and a bentgrass putting surface. Golfers will have to board a small ferry to get from the fairway to the green.

"We have a custom-made pontoon boat stored in our boathouse," notes superintendent Dan Moore. "We'll be able to transport all the equipment—including a push rotary or Flymo for rough areas—in the boat."

Moore says some consideration was given to design-



ing a bunker in which to "hide" maintenance equipment on the island. "There's not much to maintain, though, really," Moore says. "It really is nothing out of the ordinary as far as maintenance."

The flotation system is, though. The 15,000 sq. ft. green sits on more than 100 separate concrete modules with solid expanded poly-

styrene cores. Built in two layers with a sandwich of metal and foam between, the modules are locked together by an intricate system of 550 vertical through rods. Each module is 10 by 30 feet and weighs 25,000 lbs. The system was designed by Bellingham Marine Industries, Bellingham, Wash.

Runoff, which could

contain fertilizer and pesticides, is not allowed to flow into the lake. All water coming down through the soil is collected and sent to an onshore treatment plant via an umbilical cord. Two mechanical rooms beneath the green contain this system and winches that adjust the hole's distance.

The course sits on approximately 150 acres of land that housed a lumber mill for more than 90 years, so environmental concerns weighed heavily on its design. The golf green is stationed on Lake Coeur d'Alene where the mill once floated more than 30 acres of logs at a time. Using this area for the green actually returned more than 20 acres of lake to public use. □

LAWN CARE

Public awareness campaign helps customers understand

HUDSON, Ohio — A unique concept in customer relations has been implemented by one of the largest lawn care companies in the Midwest.

The Lawnmark Environmental Committee will provide information to the public on environmentally responsible lawn care.

"We will help continual development of Lawnmark's internal systems and will be a voice to the public on issues of importance to consumers," says Dr. James Wilkinson, Lawnmark's chief operating officer.

Lawnmark president J. Martin Erbaugh believes the committee's information will not only help the public but also the company. "We have already reduced pesticide use by more than 35 percent in areas of grub and weed control without sacrificing lawn quality," he notes.

"This has been accomplished mainly through equipment improvements and intensive employee training.

"This new environmental committee will assist Lawnmark to further reduce usage without sacrificing quality or customer satisfaction. This is part of our commitment to envi-

ronmental responsibility."

Members of the committee are Wilkinson, Lawnmark vice president Mark Laube, attorney Stephen G. Brooks, county extension agent Jim Chatfield and LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT technical advisors Dr. Marty Petrovic of Cornell University and Dr. Jack Hall of VPI-SU. □



Dr. James Wilkinson: new program provides a 'voice to the public'

ACADEMIA

Budget ax falls on SUNY's hort programs

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — The State University of New York/Farmingdale's horticulture department hopes state lawmakers will be generous in funding SUNY educational programs for 1991-92.

A recent fundraising campaign by the Long Island Nurserymen's Association raised \$105,000 from industry, but the department still needs \$250,000 to

preserve the curriculum. More than \$2 million in cuts have been made to university programs across the state.

Budget battles were on at press time, to meet the April 1 budget deadline.

In a politically motivated role-reversal, Gov. Mario Cuomo is apparently trying to make drastic spending cuts to raise New York from fiscal oblivion,

and thereby improve his chances for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1992, should he decide to run.

"We're trying to get support from the state assembly and state legislature to get additional funding back in the budget," says landscape contractor Gus Wade of Wade Associates, Wyandanch, N.Y.

continued on page 22

Connecticut users, DEP find harmony

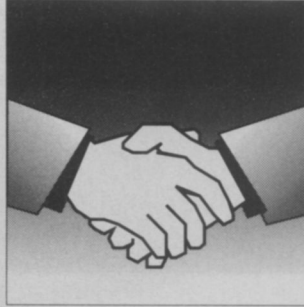
HARTFORD, Conn. — New pesticide application posting laws in Connecticut have not only led to a precedent-setting requirement for homeowners, but apparently to new-found harmony between industry users and state environmental groups as well.

The statute took effect this year. Among the law's highlights:

- A requirement to post a 4-by-5-inch sign, including the company's name and telephone number, at the time of exterior application of any pesticide. The law applies to homeowners and lawn maintenance companies.

- A requirement for golf courses to erect a 12-inch square sign at a conspicuous location, and on the first and 10th tees.

- A state-maintained registry of those who want to be notified in advance of an application. To be placed onto this registry, a persons property must abut and be within 100 yards of the affected area's boundary.



The state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will yearly publish a list of those seeking advance notification. (About 83 have applied for advance notification.)

Steven Blum, a spokesman for the Professional Pesticide Users of Connecticut (PPUC), says the new regulations are "workable," and will not affect the cost of doing business. They came about through tough but pragmatic negotiations with the Clean Water Coalition (CWC), an environmental association of 16 state organizations.

Blum says regulations "could have been a lot worse." What has emerged,

he says, is a "balanced bill that can be a model for other states to follow.

"The key is that applicators may post when they arrive on the job," he says. That keeps costs down by eliminating an extra trip to the site. Other states have 24- and 48-hour advance notification requirements, Blum says.

Bradford Robinson, a senior analyst with the DEP's pesticide division, says that including homeowners could be a first in the U.S. Exemptions for homeowners include areas less than 100 square feet or fenced-in areas.

But the registry and homeowner requirements have Robinson somewhat concerned; not for their intents, but in practical terms of administration and enforcement.

"We have no idea how this (new law) is going to work. It is our first year. There are all sorts of potential problems enforcing it," Robinson says.

Meanwhile, PPUC executive director Don Kiley, also a state lobbyist for the pesticide industry, says 1987 discussions between the PPUC and the CWC and the following cooperation between the two groups as the law was shepherded through the state legislature, nets a "mutual respect."

"There was some good hard bargaining, yes. But all of us were very satisfied to put this potentially contentious issue to bed.

"We feel this is a landmark agreement that goes way beyond the issues themselves. We have now established a lasting mutual respect," says Kiley, who was an industry negotiator when the two groups jointly approached the Connecticut legislature.

—Jack Simonds □

in a depressed market, and in a state of (the Persian Gulf) war, we can raise \$105,000 from the industry in three weeks. We (solicited) the majority of companies," says Wade, "and they came back swinging. They realize the importance of the horticulture curriculum for the industry."

Chipping in for the cause were landscape contractors, sod farmers, irrigation companies, garden centers and state landscape and gardening associations, many of whom are SUNY alumni.

"Now all we've got to do," says Wade, "is get the politicians to put the money back in the budget."

—Terry McIver □

SUNY from page 14

"State university systems in general are getting the ax from our illustrious governor," explains Wade. "I don't know whether (Cuomo) is playing political handball; I think that's what it's boiling down to." Wade also notes the adversarial relationship between Cuomo and Republican Senate leader Ralph Marino as a motivating factor.

"I think," suggests Wade, "Cuomo is hammering Long Island educational institutions to get Marino to bend on something else."

The good news is the support for SUNY by the Long Island horticulture/landscape industry.

"It's really amazing, that

EVENTS

APRIL

15-16: Southeastern Turf Conference. Contact: Karen White, (404) 769-4076, or write Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association, P.O. Box 683, Watkinsville, GA 30677.

15-18: First International Conference on Turf, Sheffield University, Sheffield, England. Contact: Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton-Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England MK12 5LG; or call Elaine at (0908) 312511.

18-19: GreenTech '91, Long Beach, Calif. Contact: California Landscape Contractors Association Seminars, 2021 N Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA, 95814; (916) 448-2522.

20-30: American Society of Golf Course Architects annual meeting, England. Contact ASGCA, 221 North LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601; (312) 372-7090.

22-24: Golf Development Expo, Palm Springs, Calif. Contact: John Ecklein, Crittenden Research Institute, P.O. Box 1150, Novato, CA 94948; (415) 382-2486.

MAY

4-7: Menninger Sunbelt Tree Conference, West Palm Beach, Fla. Contact: P.O. Box 6524, Clearwater, FL 34618; (813) 446-3356.

18-19: Florida Landscape Certification Program, Valencia Community College, Orlando. Contact: Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, 5401 Kirkman Rd., Suite 650, Orlando, FL 32819; (407) 345-8137.

18-21: International Society of Arboriculture Western Chapter Conference and Trade Show, Modesto, Calif. Contact: Allen Lagarbo, (209) 577-5344.

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Circle No. 114 on Reader Inquiry Card

Publication tells turfgrass benefits

DES MOINES, Iowa — Homeowners and green industry professionals in Iowa and Minnesota will soon have another source of information on pesticide safety: "The Surface Water Protection Plan."

Edited by Robert Mugaas, a Minnesota extension horticulturist, the reference source is a collection of articles on the proven benefits of turfgrass, and how proper care greatly minimizes the danger to surface water or underground water sources.

Mugaas uses information which has appeared in trade and scientific journals on what effect turf maintenance has on water quality.

"We want to pull some things together that will be helpful in answering questions," says Mugaas, who compares the protection plan with what has been done in some agricultural circles.

"It gives industry as well as the homeowner some idea of what they can do to act most responsibly."

"The Surface Water Protection Plan" will appear in a magazine-size format and as a newsletter. The project is being made possible by a leave-
continued on page 30

CHAPTER I

GROWTH PRODUCTS LTD.

Nurse Flo, has just opened **Growth Products Turf Grass Clinic**. Meanwhile the guys at the **Blade Club** have their hands full ... OOPS and the **Weedy Waskies** are up to something devious.



to be continued ...

Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card

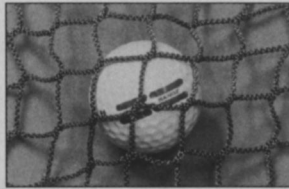
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BENEFITS

from page 26
study grant from the University of Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service.

Added support, Mugaas is quick to point out, comes from Drs. Michael Agnew and Nick Christians, both of Iowa State University.

For more information on publication dates and availability, call Mugaas at (612) 542-1420.

—Terry McIver□

CORRECTION

The "Jobtalk" feature in our February issue neglected to mention that New York golf course superintendents Dennis Flynn and John Carlone were applying Cutless 50W plant growth regulator under an Experimental Use Permit.

Their use of the product did not extend beyond 1987. Cutless 50W is not yet labelled for use in New York state. □

LETTERS

Thanks for the memories

To the editor:

As an old friend of Fred Grau, I want to thank you for your excellent article in the January issue.

Fred's drive and kindly manner will be sorely missed. He was certainly a driving force in our industry. His last dream, the National Sports Turf Council, is still in the formation stage. Those of us involved hope that we can successfully conclude all the organizational work necessary to make this a working organization.

It would be a fitting memorial for Fred.

Allan Shulder
Exec. Dir., PGMS
Cockeysville, Md.

Same name, different super

To the editor:

In the January issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, your magazine printed a file picture of me in an article on golf course equipment ("Guide to Landscape and Golf Course Equipment"). Unfortunately, the picture identified me as superintendent of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Course in Rock Island, Ill. This was a grievous mistake. The person interviewed was Jon R. Scott, not me.

I can understand how this can happen, though it seems to be shoddy editing, as you did, indeed, have a file picture of me from 1988, from a previous interview.

Obviously, no one checked to see if the two Jon Scotts were the same.

One can easily imagine the problems that develop from such a mis-identification. I have, for the past 2 1/2 years, been employed as a consulting agronomist by Jack Nicklaus Golf Services division of Golden Bear International. It is my business to travel most of the Midwest and Northeast region of the country servicing our accounts. It was quite a shock to my clients to learn that I had abandoned them for a position at Rock Island Arsenal! It was no less a shock to my employer, who had to wonder what I was up to, and then explain an apparent mistake in your magazine to upset clientele.

I think that an apology is in order. My confidence in your publication has suffered.

Jonathan L. Scott
Jack Nicklaus Golf Services
N. Palm Beach, Fla.
(You bet an apology is in order! That was, indeed, a file photo that was mismatched with the Jon Scott of Rock Island Arsenal, with whom we conducted a phone interview. Our sincerest public apologies to both Jon Scotts.—ED.)