

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

LAWN CARE

LCOs believe legislation will be obstacle in future

MARIETTA, Ga. — While public environmental concern is viewed as an "obstacle" to future growth, lawn care professionals believe more applicator certification and regulation will help emphasize the industry's environmental responsibility.

Slightly more than half of 342 respondents to a Professional Lawn Care Association of America poll said environmental concerns have cast a negative shadow on business. Nine in 10 indicated they believe it will be an obstacle in the future.

However, past PLCAA president Richard Steinau of Greenlon Inc. in Cincinnati, believes environmental awareness also could help business if communicated correctly.

"As people become more conscious of the environment, we expect they will better understand and appreciate the expertise of professional certified applicators," Steinau says. "This may open up new markets for skilled professionals."

In response to increased environmental sensitivity, lawn care applicators noted in the survey that they now conduct more employee and customer education programs, maintain better



records and strictly comply with product label instructions.

Nevertheless, members expect environmental concerns to stimulate regulatory changes, even though 64 percent believe the only action needed is enforcement of laws already in the books. One in four thinks no regulatory changes are necessary. (See chart for their expectations for regulatory change.)

In the poll, which was sponsored by Sandoz Crop Protection Corp., PLCAA members indicated they

feel product manufacturers should take the leadership role on environmental questions; nearly half (44 percent) said manufacturers have adequately responded. Specifically, they said manufacturers should provide more education and training programs (94 percent), and more printed materials on product safety and efficacy (96 percent) for distribution by applicators.

The poll was taken at the first Green Expo in Nashville, Tenn. last November. □

ENVIRONMENT

'Grasscycling' coming in April

MARIETTA, Ga. — National Grasscycling Week will be held April 21-27 as part of National Lawn Care Month.

The event, sponsored by the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), promotes disposal methods for grass clippings and other yard debris as a way to combat dwindling landfill space.

The PLCAA anticipates

lawn care companies, manufacturers, retailers, university extensions services and associations offering community events and educational programs to increase public awareness.

In marking the special week, the association offers

these grasscycling tips:

- Keep mower blades sharp.
- Mow at proper intervals so no more than one-third of lawn height is trimmed at each cutting.
- Maintain proper water and fertilization levels. □



RESEARCH

Thatch, weed cure: longhorns on lawn?

AUSTIN, Tex. — Eleven Texas longhorns have taken up residence at the National Wildflower Research Center to help researchers find the best method of restoring native prairie land. The cattle, which arrived last November, will be used at first to reduce the amount of thatch in the center's 15 vegetated acres, as well as to control bermudagrass.

"There is a major push to restore and maintain prairie land," says Alison Hill, Wildlife Center community ecologist. "Cattle have been a natural part of the tallgrass prairie in Texas. This long-term study is to discover the best way to rehabilitate the land from a monoculture to a greater diversity of plant species."

Wildflower Center researchers will study the effects of grazing as a tool to

control exotic grasses so native prairie grass species can be re-introduced and encouraged to grow.

In a non-related study, the research center has developed soil fungi experiments aimed at more successfully re-establishing nursery-grown native plants into landscapes.

Center personnel have found that plant seedlings grown in the soilless medium often used by nurseries grow better and don't require as much fertilizer when inoculated with mycorrhizae, fungi that help them absorb more nutrients and water. Once some plants have been inoculated, they remain so, benefiting from the fungi throughout their lives and requiring less water and fertilizer. The fungi are also re-introduced into the soil, where other plants may benefit from them. □

NEWS BRIEFS

THE SUBJECT WAS BENTGRASS...at the recent Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium in Milwaukee. **Dr. Joe Duich** advised seed buyers to make careful note of seed lot numbers and retain all records "to insure they get what they pay for." **Kevin Dushane**, superintendent at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club in Union Lake, Mich., said that, "golfers—principally lower handicap players—would like to have a fairway lie where the ball sits up on the turf. Mowing at 1/2-inch with a good stand of bentgrass can deliver that playing condition."

FLOWER GUIDE...A full-color 28-page booklet designed for the golf/landscape professional is being offered by the Professional Plant Growers Association. It contains valuable information on planning, planting and maintaining flowering annuals:

- a herbicide tolerance chart;
- a list of 63 popular flowering annuals with photos; and
- a chart describing each plant with regard to spacing, ease of maintenance, height, light, moisture and temperature requirements, degree of hardiness.

To order, send \$2 to: PPGA, P.O. Box 27517, Lansing, MI 48909.

IN THE WORKS...An "Envirotron" is in the works at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The structure, already approved by the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation Board of Directors, is a field laboratory with components for rootzone, greenhouse and other controlled environment features. The complete Envirotron will consist of 3,172 sq. ft. of phytotron, head, house, storage, wet laboratory, rhizotron with automatic retractable rain shelter, and living quarters. Funding for the \$700,000 project is expected to be completed by April 1.

THE FUTURE IN VIDEO..."Growing Futures," a career video, is soon to be released by the Green Industry Council of Sutton, Mass. Careers in landscape architecture, design and construction; interior landscaping; turf management; arboriculture; and nursery and greenhouse management are among those highlighted in the 18-minute video. "There is definitely a positive future," says **Byron Gechtel** in the video. To order the videotape, send \$49.95 to: Green Industry Council, P.O. Box 171, Sutton, MA 01590 or call Phyllis Gillespie at (508)476-3007. Along with the tape, you get a color poster and booklet on career opportunities and educational programs.

LAWN CARE

May take 3 years to integrate TruGreen and ServiceMaster

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Integrating Waste Management lawn care divisions into ServiceMaster operations could take up to three years, ServiceMaster president Carlos Cantu told members of the National Pest Control Association at its convention here late last year.

The decision came after ServiceMaster completed a deal last year acquiring the pest control and lawn care portions of Waste Management, said to be among the biggest transactions in both industries. ServiceMaster will be adding 270,000 of Waste Management's TruGreen lawn care customers through the deal.

"There is a lot of brand awareness in the marketplace for Waste Management, and for the names of the companies before Waste Management ac-

quired them," Cantu said during a press conference.

"The last thing we want to do is detract from that awareness, so we want to do it in such a way as to retain the names," he said, adding the Terminix pest control division could assume the Terminix name systemwide "in a subtle fashion."

TruGreen's 70 nationwide locations will continue as company branch operations while ServiceMaster's 165 lawn care franchises will operate under franchise arrangements as before, Cantu says.

"At this point, we don't anticipate any changes. The TruGreen (outlets) will continue as company-owned operations," says Cantu, while TruGreen branches will receive support from ServiceMaster franchises. Acquisition of



World Dealer


LINCOLNSHIRE, England — Gannon U.K. Ltd. was winner of Glenmac's World Dealer Award for 1990 for sales of the Harley Power Rake, used in golf, athletic fields, and landscaping. Photo shows, left to right: Guy Overton, Richard Overton and Derek Overton of Gannon accepting from Mac McPherson, president of Glenmac, Jamestown, N.D.

Waste Management's lawn care service is expected to net more than \$80 million in customer-level revenues while the pest control portion of Waste Management, also being folded into ServiceMaster operations, could add another \$90 million.

All ServiceMaster home and commercial services including lawn care, pest control and maid and cleaning services, also under franchise arrangements, may be reached through the central (800) 937-3783 network telephone number. □

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Don't gamble a 'super' job for green speed

NOVI, Mich. — Getting the maximum ball speed from a putting green doesn't mean golf course superintendents have to run the risk of damaging the turf and losing their jobs.

Jacobsen product manager Bill Kinzer says that using a greens conditioning machine can provide good green speed and healthy turf without jeopardizing the super's livelihood.

"When superintendents were rolling the greens, drying them out, double-cutting, topdressing frequently, reducing nitrogen and dropping the height of cut below $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to increase ball speed, they were literally putting their jobs on the line," says Kinzer. "Now you can reduce or eliminate a lot of those practices by going with a greens conditioner."

Kinzer notes that, in addition to reducing the frequency of these potentially

Jake's
Bill
Kinzer



stressful turf practices, one of the main advantages of greens conditioners like Jacobsen's Turf Groomer is that they allow superintendents to go to a higher cut.

"I know a number of superintendents who are cutting at $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch and have a good root system and the same ball speed they had when they were cutting below $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch," Kinzer says. "Four or five years ago, everyone wanted to see how short they could mow their greens. The premise was: the shorter the grass, the faster the green. Everybody wanted the

thinnest bedknife possible on their greens mowers so they could get the lowest cut possible on their greens.

"Some supers lost their jobs over it, because when spring came around, there was no grass left on the green."

Kinzer says that the higher cut and the resulting increase in the amount of leaf surface on the plant means a healthier grass plant with deeper roots, and makes the turf more resistant to certain diseases.

Along with improving the turf, Kinzer says greens conditioners improve the putting surface by eliminating or reducing a number of undesirable aspects of plant growth.

"Number one, the grain is removed from the grass," he says. "That's what slows the ball down. You get a smoother surface. And number two, it helps control thatch, to a degree." □

Newman pledges high standards

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Lebo Newman, new president of the California Landscape Contractors Association, has formed an Environmental Committee to explore ways the landscaping industry can be gentler on the environment.

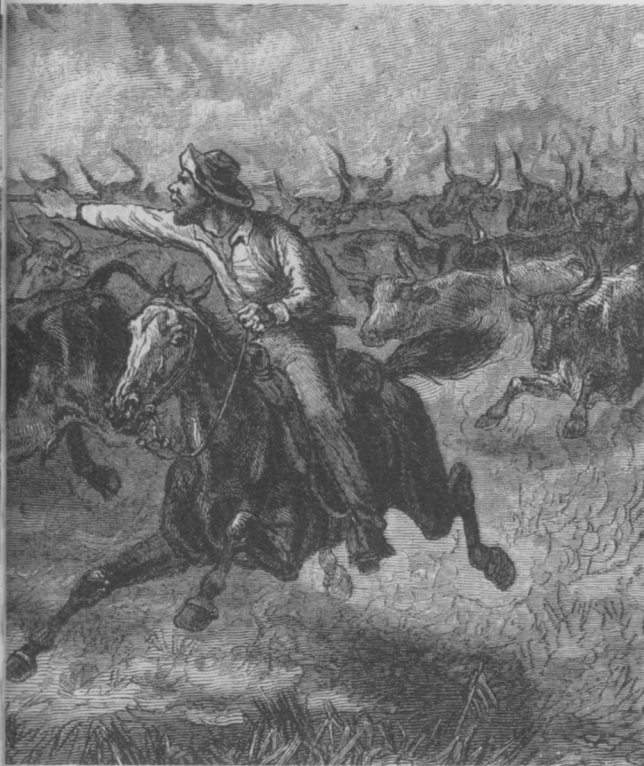
"We can educate people on better ways to apply (control products) or better ways to do our work without being a detriment," says Newman, who adds that the industry needs more ongoing management practices to prevent excessive application.

Newman, president of Redwood Landscaping in Santa Rosa, has been an active CLCA member since 1974.

"With passion, I pledge to maintain CLCA's goals and to improve the image of the landscape industry,"

continued on page 14

under pressure.



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CLCA's
Lebo
Newman



NEWMAN from page 13 Newman says. "We face challenging times: recession, drought, new regulations on employees, clean air, chemical use. I intend to position CLCA at the forefront of these issues."

Newman wants to see more industry support of bio control research.

"I think we can be fore-runners in assisting the colleges with looking into additional use of microbes and natural biotics to help promote natural activities in the soil," says Newman.

Chairman of CLCA's environmental committee is Francisco Peccorini of Landscape Management Services, San Rafael. □

New control products

'Barricade,' 'Sentinel' introduced by Sandoz

CHICAGO — Sandoz Crop Protection expects to introduce two new turf products in 1991, Barricade pre-emergence herbicide and Sentinel fungicide.

Both products have undergone extensive testing in the field.

"All in all, I had better results with Barricade than with my normal treatment program," says Tom Dale of Radnor Country Club, Philadelphia. Dale claimed longer residual control of goosegrass in his bent/poa fairways.

Other golf course superintendents satisfied with

Barricade:

● Ben Stagg (ryegrass fairways at Hog Neck Golf Course, Easton, Md.)

● Mike McNulty (ryegrass fairways, Ashborne Country Club, Cheltenham, Pa.)

● Fred Meda (bermudagrass fairways at Myrtle Beach (S.C.) National Golf Club)

"Barricade is the first herbicide that I'm aware of that lengthens the maximum residual control of the major problem grasses (crabgrass, goosegrass) up to a 12-month season," says Meda.

Sentinel is a new systemic fungicide that controls a broad spectrum of major turf diseases including dollar spot and brown patch. Meda, who tested it, claims it is "the product of the future" and Stagg, who used it on rye fairways and bent greens and tees, says he was "very impressed."

Sentinel has growth regulating properties that include turning the turf a darker green and thickening it, tests prove.

For more information on either product, contact Howard Heffron at Sandoz: (708) 390-3750. □

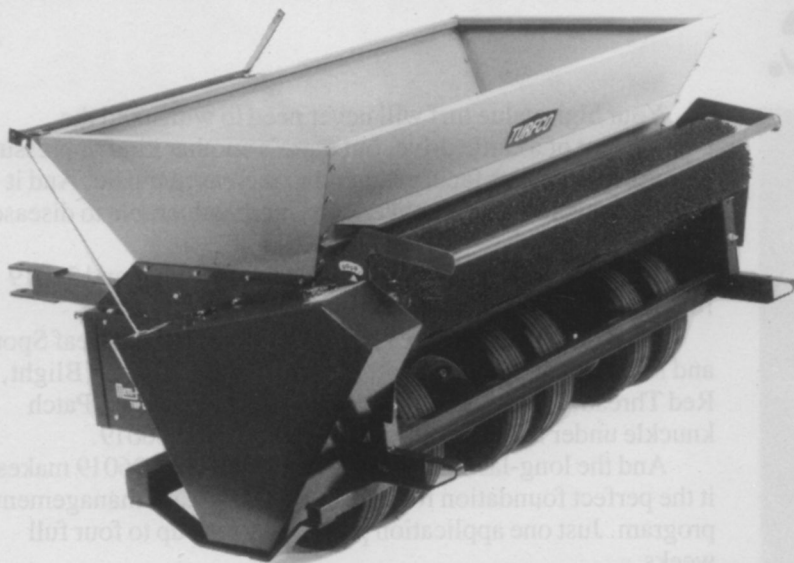
Hoechst-Roussel's 'Ignite,' 'Illoxan' due in '92

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Co. has announced the development of two control products designed for the

golf and landscape markets. They should be ready for the 1992 growing season.

Ignite herbicide, which currently boasts an EPA

Experimental Use Permit, is expected to get full registration later this year. The product is a non-selective
continued on page 18



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NEW CONTROL PRODUCTS from page 14

herbicide for use in orchards, vineyards and industrial areas. It can be tank-mixed with most residual herbicides used in non-crop areas. It will also be registered for use on grapes, palm fruits and tree nuts.

"Ignite has applications across the green industry where you don't have to worry about herbicide movement off-site," says Dr. Phil Robinson, product manager.

Illoxan herbicide, which has a 24C label in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, is expected to be registered some time in 1992. It is for control of goosegrass in bermudagrass turf—which is to say on golf courses. A 24C label is also pending in North Carolina and Texas.

"Illoxan will make a ma-



Golf course super Mike McNulty observes disease on the 15th fairway at Ashborne Country Club. (See article on page 14.)

for impact in the golf industry," Robinson notes. "We'll change the way people apply grass control herbicides." □

'Impact' gets EUP from EPA

RALEIGH, N.C. — An experimental use permit has been granted by the EPA to BASF Agricultural Chemical Group for an experimental turf herbicide to control broadleaf and annual grasses. The one-application herbicide will receive trials on more than 260 acres at sites across the country.

A full registration application is on file with the EPA for Impact, the herbicide which received testing last year on its control capabilities for crabgrass,

dandelions, clover and other weed species.

BASF specialty business manager Terry Hanson says that, after six years study, Impact will be tested under typical conditions and applications.

The firm also wants to determine the tolerant grass varieties for Impact. To date, bluegrass, ryegrass, tall fescue and bermudagrass have proved tolerant.

The product is formulated as a water soluble powder. □

'Snapshot' for ornamentals

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Snapshot herbicide from DowElanco has received federal EPA registration for use on ornamental plants, groundcovers, non-fruit- and nut-bearing crops, non-bearing vineyards and nursery stock.

Snapshot 80 DF (dry flowable) provides up to eight months control of 86 broadleaf and grassy weeds before they emerge. It can be applied directly over the top of established ornamentals and/or to wet foliage.

174 labeled species of ornamentals have excellent tolerance to it.

Snapshot 80 DF can be used alone or tank-mixed with other herbicides. Because it is a pre-emergent, applications should be made in the spring or fall before weeds emerge, preferably one to two weeks before weed germination. For best results, the herbicide must be activated by at least ½-inch of moisture within 21 days of application. □

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LAWN CARE

PLCAA members to get break on dues structure for 1991

MARIETTA, Ga. — The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) will use 1991 to make significant structural changes, judging by recent developments.

A new dues structure, proposed to the executive committee at a Jan. 29 meeting in Atlanta, will have the most immediate impact on current PLCAA members. A 1990 dues increase resulted in a number of member companies bolting from the association. Membership, once as high as 1400, now stands at less than 500.

Released by the board was deputy executive director Doug Moody, who joined the PLCAA in 1985. Moody had been involved with a number of member service programs, and was publications director and editor of the association

newsletter. Moody's responsibilities will be given to other staffers or contracted out as needed.

According to a memo from PLCAA president Neal DeAngelo, Moody's former post will remain vacant. DeAngelo says the education committee will be responsible for overseeing all of the association's educational needs.

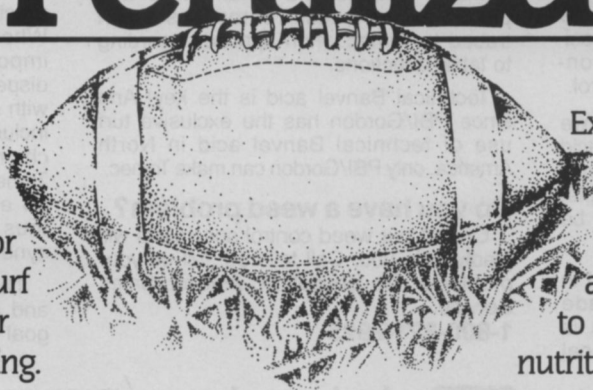
"The committee will use the outside services of state university and extension people, associate members, our larger member firms and other outside resources," says DeAngelo, who adds that the education committee will also work through state chapters whenever possible.

Moody announced that he will continue to manage and advise associations and companies through his new

continued on page 26

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PLCAA from page 22
company, Moody Management and Marketing Services.

DeAngelo says the PLCAA will refocus its public relations efforts to include a "much broader range of public relations programs internally." He cites the association's annual report as an example.

Government affairs will undergo little change, according to DeAngelo. □

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

7-8: Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference, Anchorage, Alaska. Contact: Cathy Wright, SR Box 7440, Palmer, AK 99645; (907) 745-4119.

5-12: International Golf Course Conference, Las

Vegas (Nev.) Convention Center. Contact: GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047-7878; (913) 841-2240 or (800) 472-7878.

3: Associated Green Industries of Northeast Ohio Trade Show, Michaud's Town 'N' Country, Strongsville, Ohio. Contact: Associated Green Industries, 10812 Meadow Trail, Strongsville, OH 44136; (216) 572-2784.

14: Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference, Hartford (Conn.) Civic Center. Contact: Elizabeth Maisano, P.O. Box 876, Bethel, CT 06801; (203) 791-8615.

17-20: ALCA Executive Forum, Radisson Palm Springs (Calif.) Resort and Convention Center. Contact: Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 405 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 241-4004.

19-20: Cash Flow and Cash Flow Budgeting Seminar, Ontario (Calif.) Hilton on the 19th, Oakland (Calif.) Hilton on the 20th. Contact: Micheyl Barnett, California Landscape Contractors Assn., 2021 N St., Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 448-2522.

21: Arborist Foreman Training Program, Park Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Lana Ahlum, Ohio Chapter

ISA, P.O. Box 967, Hilliard, OH 43026.

21-22: Landscape Contractor's Association Winter Workshop, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Rockville, Md. Contact: LCA, 9053 Shady Grove Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20877; (301) 948-0810.

22-23: ALMA Expo, St. Petersburg, Fla. Contact: Barbara Ganz, (800) 992-2562.

27: New Jersey Landscape '91, The Meadowlands. Contact: Skip Powers, 630 Valley Court, Westwood, NJ 07675; (201) 664-6310.

MARCH

2: Long Island Tree Conference, SUNY Farmingdale. Contact: Long Island Arboricultural Assn., P.O. Box 69, Holtsville, NY 11742; (516) 698-3366.

2-3: Tampa Bay Horticultural Trade Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa. Contact: Trade Show, 6804-C Gunn Highway, Tampa, FL 33625; (813) 920-4393.

13-14: Reinders Brothers Turfgrass Conference, Waukesha (Wisc.) Expo Center. Contact: Ed Devinger, Reinders Brothers, 13400 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122; (414) 786-3301. **LM**

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