

## Fescue, blue, *Poa trivialis* make news

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**—Seed experts in Idaho, Oregon and Washington predict a sizeable cutback in 1992's turf-type tall fescue production, to remedy a glut in the species.

Gayle Jacklin, director of marketing for the Jacklin Seed Co., says inventories of turf-type tall fescue might not reach "acceptable levels" until 1993.

Dave Nelson of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission estimates that about 30,000 to 50,000 tall fescue acres will be converted to wheat production, which represents a decrease of 10 to 15 percent.

"We overproduced it," admits Dr. Jerry Pepin of Pickseed West.

"Five years ago there weren't even 25,000 acres in production," says Pepin. He agrees that it will take at least one season to correct the situation.

"We concentrated so heavily for the last 10 years on turf-type tall fescue, and it grew to more than 80,000 acres," says Nelson.

At the other end of the spectrum, Nelson says bluegrass prices have risen in price due to inadequate supply.

"The dryland areas in southeastern Washington did not yield what was hoped for," says Nelson, resulting in a price increase at season's end.

"(The price of) common Kentucky bluegrass has gone up about 25 to 30 percent," says Doug Toews, director of marketing for International Seeds. "And as far as name brand proprietary varieties, they're stable and/or going up."

Compounding the problem is the increased price of wheat.

"When wheat prices jump up like they did—from between \$2.75 and \$4 a bushel—it gives farmers an alternative to back some ground out of grass seed production," Nelson explains.



Dave Nelson



Dr. Jerry Pepin

## HOT STUFF

### Group to certify hort pros

**DENVER**—A group with the acronym ARCPACS will soon be the official certification board for horticultural professionals, according to its chairperson.

ARCPACS stands for the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops and Soils. It has been in existence for more than 14 years.

In preparation for its new duties, ARCPACS added a six-member sub-board of horticulturists during its annual meeting here in October. The board now has sub-boards in horticulture, agronomy, crop and soil science.

The six new board members, according to ARCPACS chairman Dr. Ricks Pluenneke, are: Dr. J. Benton Storey of Texas A&M University, Dr. William L. Hagan of San Leandro, Calif.; Dr. Cyntia D. Fellman of Frank's Nursery and Crafts, Detroit, Mich.; Dr. George Fitzpatrick of the University of Florida; Dr. Terry G. I Ferriss of the University of Wisconsin/River Falls; and Dr. James S. Kamas of the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Service.

### Another neem on market in 1992

**NEW YORK**—Another natural insecticide will be on the market by the 1992 growing season, according to a recent report in the *New York Times*.

The product is an extract of seeds from the neem tree, a tropical mahogany.

W.R. Grace, which developed the product, will sell a patented concentrate as "Margosan-O" to the professional horticulture market, the *Times* reports.

"Greenhouse and field tests have shown that (the) liquid spray, applied to plant leaves, controls about 170 types of insect pests, including beetles, caterpillars, fruit flies, crickets, locusts, aphids, weevils, gypsy moths and mosquitos," the *Times* article notes.

There may be turf and forestry applications, the article also says. A relatively short residual, though, may mean several applications during the growing season.

### Jacklins might acquire Medalist

**POST FALLS, Idaho**—The Jacklin brothers—Don, Doyle and Duane—have issued a letter of intent to acquire the Medalist Turf Seed Division of Northrup King Lawn & Garden Company. The buy would be made independent of the Jacklin Seed Co., and includes Medalist's varieties, sales staff, and its Oregon and Nevada branch operations.

The Medalist Division would be renamed Medalist America and would operate independently, supplying grass seed to its existing professional and dealer network.

The purchase would give the Jacklins an entry into the consumer market with smaller, retail packaging. Northrup would benefit from the Jacklins' reputation as leaders in seed research.

Andrea Mackin, Jacklin spokesperson, says Medalist America would retain a separate sales and marketing staff, and its center of operations would remain in Minneapolis.

Jacklin would also acquire use of Medalist's Oregon research facility.

Nelson says the bluegrass price increase should raise the price of other varieties.

In other seed news, *Poa trivialis* overseeding is becoming more popular on southern golf greens.

"This gives us an opportunity to diversify the production base," says Nelson.

"It's going to be a hot one, but in limited supply for the next two or three years," says Toews of *Poa trivialis*'s growing popularity, which is reportedly due to better shade tolerance, and because the poa is easier to transition out in the spring than a straight perennial ryegrass overseed.

—Terry McIver