

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Growth regulator now EPA-registered for golf, commercial and residential turf care

■ Primo, Ciba-Geigy's new plant growth regulator, has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use on highly maintained commercial and residential turf, and golf courses.

The product had been through two years of testing by all user groups under an Experimental Use Permit.

"Primo features new, unique chemistry that's not available in other plant growth regulators," says Bernd Druebbisch, Primo product manager. According to Druebbisch, Primo slows turf growth as needed, and breaks down to carbon dioxide and water. It also inhibits the plant's ability to produce gibberellic acid, which determines cell elongation and internode length.

Use on all turf species—Primo may be used on all major warm- and cool-sea-



son turf species, including bahiagrass, common and hybrid bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, red

and tall fescue and annual and perennial ryegrass.

Ciba-Geigy reports that at standard rates, Primo reduces turf growth by 50 percent for a period of four weeks. This reduces the amount of time required to mow a property, perhaps even helping to eliminate mowing cycles.

Primo also reduces clippings. Lawn care professionals, landscapers and mowing management firms have noted the value of reduced clippings, citing landfill bans on yard waste in 17 states, increased cost of landfill dumping and aesthetic turf advantages, such as denser turf.

Primo may be used as an edging material around ornamental beds, trees, curbs and other areas, and will not injure non-target plants or trees.

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PRODUCT REVIEW

Drainage matting product is perfect for use on decks

Enkadrain is a lightweight, durable alternative to gravel for landscape planters, roof decks and plaza slabs, Akzo Industrial Systems says.

By replacing the conventional four to six inches of gravel, the Enkadrain matting offers landscapers considerable savings in weight and cost of hauling.

The matting is described as a polyester filter fabric heat-bonded to a resilient nylon matting of open, three-dimensional construction.

During rainy weather, the filter fabric allows water to drain, while holding back the adjacent soil. By providing proper drainage, problems can be avoided.

According to Akzo, Enkadrain helps prevent root rot and promotes even more root development in planters of any size.

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Artificial bentgrass divot-proof, suitable for range use

A new simulated bentgrass tee surface has been developed by U.S. Indoor Golf Inc., according to president Irving Bookspan.



The surface features two inches of polypropylene filled with three types of aggregate fiber. It has a shock pad underneath with a simulated rootzone and vertical draining system.

Bookspan says golfers can't take divots

from the tee turf, and placing tees into it is easy, no matter what the weather conditions.

The holes produced by the tees are naturally refilled by the aggregate fibers when the tees are removed.

The surface is also perfect for driving ranges, and a similar, low-maintenance simulated bentgrass surface has been developed for greens, according to Bookspan.

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Turf-type tall fescue gets plant protection status

Pickseed West, Inc., recently announced that the United States Department of Agriculture issued Plant Variety Protection to Shortstop turf-type tall fescue.

Dr. Jerry Pepin, Pickseed's executive vice-president says Shortstop is a slower-