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Sustainable Development and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

MCS—Dr. Janette Sherman, author of "Chemical Exposure and Disease," contended that Multiple Chemical Sensitivity is a bona fide disease, which is in direct conflict with a position paper by the American Medical Association.

"Pesticides are contaminating much of the world," she said. "The intellectual and educational ramifications of pesticide use are enormous. Registries are quick fixes, but they're not long-term answers."

Taking the side of the AMA, Dr. Suellen Pirages of the Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute noted that "MCS doesn't follow the principle of toxicology and causation. We need carefully designed and controlled medical studies on this phenomenon."

RISE's approach—Issues like MCS mean a change in philosophy for RISE.

"We will become activists for our industry," RISE executive director Allen James promised. "Defense is no longer adequate."

—Jerry Roche

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Unusual news & notes from the turf & ornamental world

'Silverdome West' decked out

■ The research dome known as "Silverdome West" is decked out in new outerwear as part of ongoing research to learn more about growing grass indoors.

Dr. Trey Rogers says that the Sheerfill IIA Architectural Membrane allows roughly twice the amount of sunlight through than the material that currently covers the real Silverdome.

The Michigan State University research facility at East Lansing was constructed to mimic conditions at the Pontiac Silverdome, where MSU's turfgrass scientists perfected the portable indoor turf on which the 1994 World Cup soccer games were played.

Low light is the greatest challenge to growing durable grass indoors. "The theory is that this new membrane will allow turfgrass to stay indoors without supplemental light for a long period of time," says Rogers.

Interesting uses of grasses

■ Author Craig Tufts, in his book "The Backyard Naturalist," urges people to consider more interesting uses and varieties of grass.

"Tall, graceful, murmuring grasses look great all year round (with once-a-year cutting), and others can be plucked to make dry-grass arrangements," he writes. "As a bonus, most grasses are highly attractive to wildlife (especially to birds and butterflies) for both food and shelter."

Tufts, who also directs the National Wildlife Federation's Urban Wildlife Division, recommends hardy native species to add texture to the landscape, help control erosion, attract wildlife and look pretty.

For more information on native grasses available for landscaping, Tufts recommends "Grasses, an Identification Guide" by Lauren Brown.

Around the world on a lawnmower

■ Ben Garcia, listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" for longest lawnmower ride, plans to break his own record by riding around the world, beginning March 13, 1996.

In 1986, he drove the "Woofmobile" from Maine to California, riding for W.O.O.F. (World Order of Friends) and ended up in the national media. Before he begins his current around-the-world itinerary, he and Sister Rosalie Curran, Ph.D., are asking for sponsorships. Sister Curran is W.O.O.F. president.

"An amateur seven-minute action-filled video from Ben's initial transcontinental lawnmower ride is available, on request, for your inspection and pleasure," Sister Curran writes. You can contact her by phoning (201) 292-6300 or by writing W.O.O.F., Tiffany Village, Summit Lane, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

NOVEMBER

1-Jan. 10: Arboriculture Skills Workshop, Kent (Ohio) State University. Phone: Chris Carlson, (216) 332-0361 or Anita Linde, (614) 433-0045.

2: 2,4-D Reregistration Status Report, O'Hare Airport Marriott Hotel, Chicago. Phone: (800) 345-5109.

5-8: National Institute on Park and Grounds Management, Toledo, Ohio. Phone: (414) 733-2301.

11: International Hong Kong & China Golf Exhibition & Conference, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center. Phone: 011 (61-9) 322-3222.

7-9: Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, Pa. Phone: (814) 863-3475 or Dr. Peter Landschoot, (814) 863-1017.

7-10: New York Turf & Grounds Exposition, Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Phone: (800) 873-8873 or (518) 783-1229.

12-14: International Irrigation Exposition & Technical Conference, Phoenix Convention Center. Phone: (703) 573-3551.

12-14: Golf Courses on Landfills Conference, Industry Hills (Calif.) Sheraton Resort. Phone: Bill Burbaum or Judy Thompson, (407) 744-6006.

14-16: Midwest Turfgrass & Ornamental Seminar, Lafayette, Ind. Phone: Bev Bratton, (317) 494-8039.

16-18: Tree Care Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Ind. Phone: (800) 733-2622.

16-19: International Golf Show & Golf Course Europe, Pabellon de Cristal, Madrid, Spain. Phone: Charles Duff, (510) 526-6922.

25-28: Forum on Golf Course Building at the International Trade Fair for Design, Equipping and Care of Amenity Areas, Cologne (Germany) Exhibition Center. Phone: Dr. George Heim, 011 (0221) 971-3021.

27-29: North Central Turfgrass Exposition, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Ill. Phone: Jack Lagershausen or Nancy Jones, (312) 201-0101.