

Grab Bag

Fill 'er up with fescue!

David Ramey of Columbus, Ohio, says grass clippings and other sources of organic matter can be used to produce butanol, an industrial solvent used in perfume, rubber, pharmaceuticals and many other products. Butanol is a clean-burning alcohol and it can be used as a substitute for gasoline. His name for the resulting product is Butyl-Fuel™.

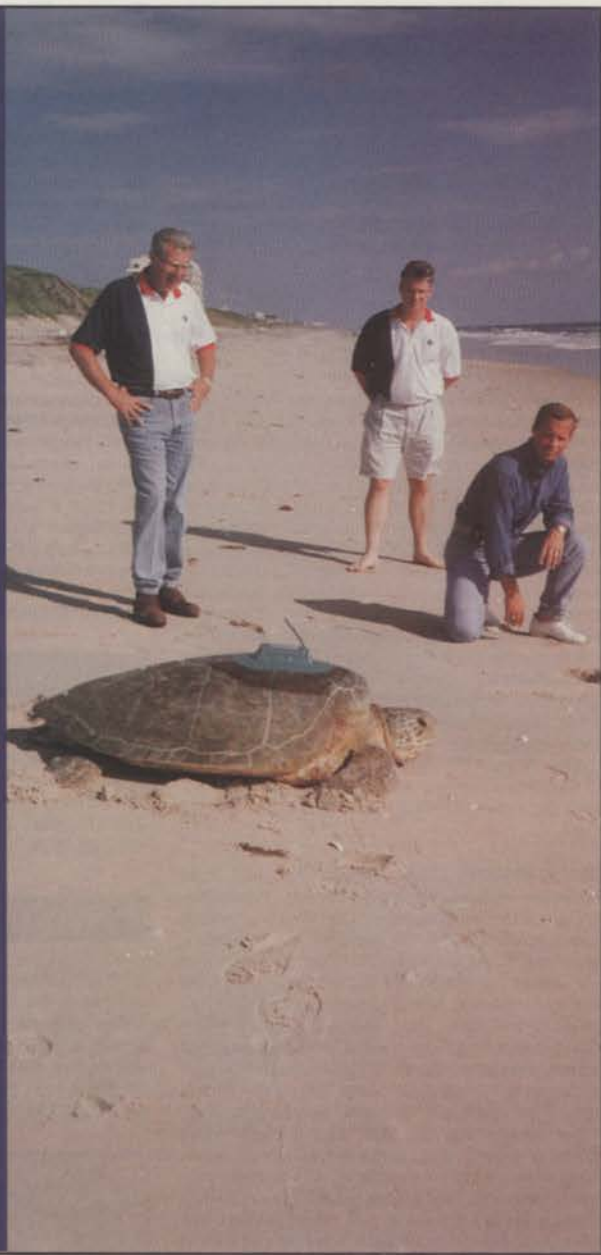
Armed with patent-pending and trade secrets, Ramey claims the product can double the yield of butanol from organic matter such as corn. Ramey is proceeding with plans to build a production facility in northwest Ohio. Depending on the level of investor interest, he believes the plant can become operational and producing 5 million gallons of butanol a year by 2000.

"We're not trying to reinvent anything," he tells LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT. "The fermentation of organic matter into butanol and acetone, which are industrial solvents, started in 1912 and flourished up until the 1950s. But they used mostly corn and sugar cane syrup from Cuba. So when Cuba became nationalized they stopped that. Also, the petrochemical companies could make it (butanol) cheaper because oil was \$1.23 a barrel in those days."

Ramey is at Environmental Energy, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, at (614) 487-3629.

SLOW AND STEADY

Snapper Mower has helped launch a research project that uses state-of-the-art technology to rescue endangered marine turtles. The program is called the Sea Turtle Migration-Tracking Education Program. The Sea Turtle Survival League is Snapper's not-for-profit partner in the project. Four turtles have been put to sea wearing satellite transmitters, which will help scientists track the green turtles migration patterns. Researchers say it's still a mystery where these turtles spend 90 percent of their lives. Shown in the photo at Florida's Melbourne Beach are (behind turtle, from center to right) Snapper President and CEO Jerry Schweiner; Snapper area sales manager, Todd McMahon; and Florida Commissioner of Education, Frank Brogan. The four turtles are named Sam, Snapper, Amelia and Carmen. You can track the turtle trace yourself if you visit the Sea Turtle Survival Web Page, at www.ccturtle.org.



Words of wisdom, with green industry relevance

"Turfgrass is the Rodney Dangerfield of the plant world."

—TERRY KURTH, BAREFOOT GRASS, MADISON, WISC.

Grab Bag features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...