

35th

ANNIVERSARY

Research milestones

*Better turfgrass varieties.
Land grant universities.
Stewardship. Many people
and their ideas have helped
the green industry grow.*

The most significant milestone in the green industry over the past 35 years was the removal of chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds, such as chlordane, as a means of controlling insect and weed pests in turfgrasses.

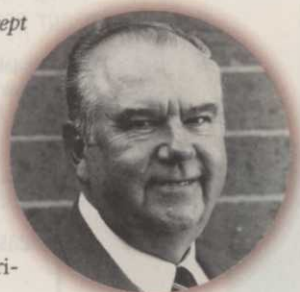
These persistent compounds had a long-term, negative impact on beneficial organisms, which, in turn, exacerbated thatch buildup and development of insects resistant to this class of compounds. Despite their efficacy, the environment is far better for them having been removed.

A second milestone would be the introduction of the *concept* of IPM, which among other things, created a conservative attitude toward the use of pesticides among turfgrass managers and created opportunities for the exploration and development of natural agents to suppress damage from a broad range of turfgrass pests. There is no question that the principles of IPM are sound, however, the concept must remain flexible to allow for integrating new methods and materials as they are developed.

New compounds

Finally, the recent EPA labeling of compounds such as imidacloprid (Merit) and halofenozide (Mach 2), which have a significantly reduced impact on the environment, and at the same time, have an extended residual activity. Compounds such as these should reduce the frequency with which insecticides need to be applied to control damage from insect pests of turfgrasses.

—Dr. Harry Niemczyk, Emeritus Professor, OARDC/The Ohio State University, Dept. of Entomology, 1997.



Niemczyk: a better environment.

Better turfgrass management

All Across America today, we enjoy the benefits of superior turfgrass management. Home lawns are more attractive, sports fields and golf courses are more playable and roadsides have less erosion.

It hasn't always been this way, and we

have many people to thank for the advancements made in turfgrass culture. But the group most responsible are turf scientists at our land grant universities. No two turf scientists would agree as to which findings have contributed the most to this ad-

ones

vancement, but I believe the following list includes the most significant contributions.

1) USGA specifications for putting green construction. These greens are the best playing surfaces in sports. Transfer of the technology to sports field construction has virtually eliminated muddy football games.

2) Effective and affordable herbicides. Billions of dollars have been spent to find the right compounds to selectively reduce undesirable weeds without harming the turf.

3) Professional lawn care. These companies have the equipment and the know-how to safely fertilize, control weeds and insects and provide other lawn services homeowners need.

4) Slow-release, non-burning nitrogen fertilizers. Especially isobutyldiene diurea and thin layer polymer and sulfur-coated urea. These slow-release products reduce "chemical burn" and reduce the potential for nitrogen loss through leaching and runoff during heavy rain.

5) Better turfgrass cultivars. In the south, Tifton hybrid bermudagrasses revolutionized the golf industry and sports field business. For homelawns in the deep south, Floratam St. Augustinegrass, a chinchbug and virus-resistant cultivar was significant. In cooler regions, turf-type tall fescue cultivars provide homeowners with superior lawns. New perennial ryegrass cultivars for lawns and sports fields in the north and overseeding dormant bermudagrass golf courses and sports

fields in the south offer new options. Heat and drought tolerant seeded cultivars of creeping bentgrass are providing superior putting surfaces on golf greens.

6) Better equipment, especially hydraulically-driven reels on mowers provide better uniformity in turf.

7) Water conservation. Improved technology in sprinkler heads, controllers and variable speed pumping systems.

8) Deep tine, deep drill and water injection aerifiers. These enable turf managers to improve the rootzone of golf greens, athletic fields and other heavily-trafficked turf areas.

9) Systemic fungicides. These help turf managers prevent pythium and give them better control of many other serious diseases of turfgrass.

10) Integrated pest management (IPM). Through better methods of insect identification, mapping and more timely application of low volume, more efficacious insecticides, turf managers can obtain safer and more effective pest control.

11) Information. Through professional publications, conference, seminars, field days, trade shows and Extension turf specialists, our turf managers are the best-informed turf managers in the world.

—Dr. Coleman Ward, professor emeritus,
former turfgrass extension specialist,
Auburn University.

[TIMELINE]

77:

Senate subcommittee staff report sharply criticizes EPA's efforts to regulate pesticides. Survey says about 5 percent of the 8 million U. S. homes get lawn care. *Lawn Care Industry* begins publication in July.

1979:

O.M. Scott's *Lawn Care* publication turns 50.

Kubota introduces first compact excavator to

U.S. market. PLCAA forms to serve

lawn care operators.



1980:

PGMS begins its Certified Grounds

Manager peer review program.

ChemLawn sales hit \$100 million.

[TIMELINE]

1984:

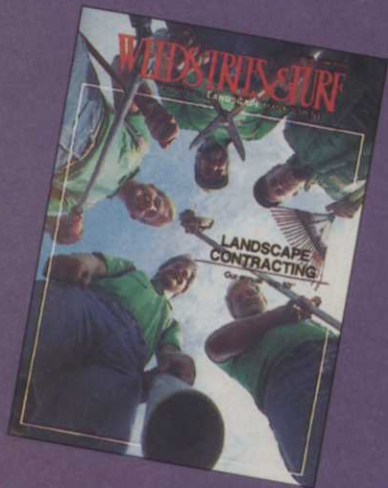


A former lawn care company employee who balanced a murder

defense on chemical intoxication was found guilty in a Massachusetts court. John Deere builds its millionth lawn and garden tractor—an 18 hp, Model 318—on May 1.

1987:

Weeds Trees & Turf turns 25, becomes LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT to reflect larger industry leadership role. EcoLab acquires ChemLawn for \$370 million.



**LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT**

Noer's work paved the way

From his beginnings as a graduating soil scientist from the Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, O.J. Noer went on to become the state soil chemist in 1914, and is credited with helping to establish the first soil testing laboratory in the country.

A consultant before there were consultants

As head of the Milwaukee Sewerage commission Turf Service Bureau from 1926-1960, Noer visited and inspected perhaps 80 percent of the golf courses in North America to advise superintendents on turf maintenance problems.

Noer made many contributions to the diagnosis of turf problems, and wrote and spoke about turf at conferences almost continuously through the period.

The ABC of Turf Culture, his 1928 classic, represents one of the earliest integrated works on the subject.

A friend and advisor to all, O.J. Noer was a man "whose educational backgrounds, broad experience and intimate contact with the everyday problems of those concerned with growing turf qualify him as an outstanding authority in his field.

Noer's name was entered into the Wisconsin State Golf Association's Hall of Fame at the 1985 Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium. Before and after his death on July 12, 1966, O.J. Noer has been considered a true pioneer in the turfgrass industry.

The O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc., was initiated in 1959 by associates and friends of O.J. (Oyvind Juul) Noer, to "honor North America's most widely known, respected and beloved turfgrass agronomist."

Objectives of the foundation are:

- ▶ promote scientific research in turfgrass and related fields
- ▶ train graduate students for conducting said research by offering financial assistance
- ▶ publish research findings for industry
- ▶ receive donations and endorsements

to achieve aforesaid purposes in perpetuity.

For information about the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, Inc., contact the foundation at P.O. Box 1494, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1494.

You can also search the Michigan State University Turfgrass Information Center at: www.lib.msu.edu/tgif/noer.htm

Seeded bermuda an '80s highlight

Improved seed propagated varieties of bermudagrass have been developed during the last decade, as a result of financial support and encouragement from several experiment stations and the USGA.

New varieties

The renewed interest in seeded bermudagrass got much of its spark from the release of Guymon in 1982., and NuMex SAHARA in 1987. These were the first two improved turf-type seed propagated varieties to receive commercial acceptance.

Guyman, although somewhat coarse-textured, is a very cold tolerant variety. NuMex SAHARA is not cold tolerant, but it has improved turf quality with somewhat greater density, shorter stature and darker green summer color than common bermuda.

Three more recent releases—Sultan (FMC-6); Mirage and Jackpot—have performed well in the NTEP trials. They have increased density, finer texture or overall turf quality.

These are exciting and challenging times in the bermudagrass industry. Stay in touch. maybe seeded bermudagrass has a future, back from its beginning 75 years ago.

—Dr. Arden Baltensperger, director of turfgrass research for Seeds West, Inc., and emeritus professor of agronomy at New Mexico State University.