

cont. from page 40

the quality and health of the turfgrass improves. Increased rooting and turf density reduce the reliance on pesticide use also.

**Economic benefits?**

The price difference between organic-based fertilizers and synthetic fertilizers has narrowed, but organic-based materials still tend to be more expensive. So can you justify a higher-priced product? Well, if a solid program means that you can reduce your use of other materials, the answer is yes.

Catron says that yearly comparative data at NaturaLawn of America data indicates that they use 80% less control materials than a traditional lawn care company, for weed and insect controls, and over 97% of the applications that they do make for insects are biologically based.

In addition, increases in earthworm populations, mixing of organic materials into the soil and decreases in thatch all contribute to the condition of the soil, and can only benefit the turf, which ultimately will impact the types and extents of treatments required.

**How do you start?**

Well, besides finding a supplier of organic-based products and updating your ad in the Yellow Pages, it is important to have a good understanding of the nutritional aspects of the turf you are dealing with.

Catron advises people to look down the road and see the long-term benefits. Changing your materials is an easy step, he says. The tough change is adapting your approach and training, and involving your employees to make good decisions and not to treat a disease symptom as soon as they see it. If you are building soil as well as turf, you want to give the soil organisms and insects a chance to do their job.

*Chuck Paulson is the National Sales Director and Mike Archer is Product Manager for Spring Valley Turf Products, Jackson, WI.*

## Fertilization and nutrition products

**Emerald Isle's GroWin** rootzone biostimulant produces an additive response over and above fertilizers and amendments.

Recently concluded research verifies that GroWin builds larger, deeper, denser roots, increases foliar growth and improves stress tolerance. Applied to the top 4-6 inches of the rootzone before seeding, sodding or sprigging, GroWin reduces the need for nitrogen to produce response.

For more information call 800/628-GROW or Circle No. 283

**Johnathan Green's** complete line of fertilizers and fertilizer combination products.

Products include premium fertilizers with Green Meter Technology, natural/organic-base fertilizers, liquid applications and fertilizer combinations with weed and insect control products.

For more information call 800/526-2303, website [www.jonathangreen.com](http://www.jonathangreen.com) or Circle No. 284

**Harmony Products is offering Complete 14-3-6 1% Iron, 6-2-12 3% Iron Bridge Products and the new Complete 7-2-5 4% Iron.**

New 7-2-2 4% Iron features secondary and micro-nutrients including 4% iron, seaweed extracts and humic acid. The Premium Organic Line includes the Bridge Products 4-2-0 Topcoat and 3-6-3 Turf Food.

For more information call 800/343-6343 or Circle No. 285

**Howard Johnson's Enterprises** launched its new line of products featuring HJCT-2, a patented coating process for nitrogen and potassium.

Thirteen layers of ultra-thin coating protect the nutrients from moisture and temperature more effectively than the thicker, less accurate coatings. This polymer-based coating technology will provide greater control over turf color, growth and quality.

For more information call 800/298-4656 or Circle No. 286

**Lange-Stegmann Co.** offer a variety of products.

The products include Agricoturf II Stabilized Nitrogen, Polyon Polymer Coated Nutrients, Nutralene and Nitroform Nitrogen, as well as Sulfur Coated Urea and Super U. Lange-Stegmann will also be offering fertilizer products with Mach 2 Turf Insecticide Grub control in early 1999.

For more information call 800/279-9531 or Circle No. 287

**Natural Fertilizer of America** offers biologically-based soil treatments.

Sustane Natural Based and Natural Organic

Fertilizers are dry granulated fertilizer products made from aerobically composted turkey litter. Bolster plant growth supplements, formulated from seaweed, humic acids and plant nutrients, are available in liquid and water-soluble packets.

For more information call 800/383-4081 or Circle No. 288

**Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.** offers Macro-Sorb radicular and Macro-Sorb foliar amino acid-based fertilizers and Quelant-Ca calcium chelated with amino acids.

Quelant-Ca is tank-mix compatible with herbicides, soluble fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulators.

For more information call 800/925-5187, website [www.nutrimaxlabs.com](http://www.nutrimaxlabs.com) or Circle No. 289

**Plant Health Care's Flexx** reduces stress, stimulates root growth and corrects nutrient deficiencies.

A water-soluble biostimulant premix, Flexx comes with fully chelated micro-nutrients, biostimulants and beneficial bacteria.

For more information call 800/421-9051, website [www.planthealthcare.com](http://www.planthealthcare.com) or Circle No. 290

**Regal Chemical Co.** offers Multigreen II.

This liquid water-soluble organic blend of organic chelated of iron, copper, zinc and manganese that improves root growth, color and stress tolerance.

For more information call 800/621-5208 or Circle No. 291

**Simplot's** line of Best brand fertilizers are formulated for a wide range of applications.

Many Best products contain Polyon, TriKote and Best-Cote controlled-release polymer and sulfur coatings.

For more information call 800/992-6066, website [www.bestfertilizer.com](http://www.bestfertilizer.com) or Circle No. xxx

**Terra Industries** offers a full line of fertilizers.

Products include primary, secondary, micro-nutrient and pesticide packages. Terra's Gold Cote technology delivers predictable, controlled release nutrition.

For more information call 800/288-7353, website [www.terraindustries.com](http://www.terraindustries.com) or Circle No. 292

**Tessenderlo Kerley** offers the firstTurf family of liquid fertilizers.

N-Sure-KS liquid fertilizer, part of the firstTurf foliar specialty fertilizer solutions, contains triazone slow-release nitrogen and potassium thiosulfate.

For more information call 800/525-2803 or Circle No. 293