

## Seed companies divide ABT remains

The dust is clearing following the collapse of AgriBioTech (ABT) and the subsequent sale of its turfgrass seed and specialty division assets to Kenneth R. Budd and J.R. Simplot.

Budd is again running Lofts Seeds out of Winston-Salem, NC. The Budd Group, run by Kenneth Budd's uncle, Richard Budd, bought Lofts Seed, Inc., in June 1996. Lofts Seed was then merged with AgriBioTech in January 1998, and Richard and Kenneth became officers in ABT. Kenneth Budd was named president chief operating officer of ABT in June 1999.

In August, Lofts struck an



Barenbrug USA's Marc Cool, left, and Roeland Kapsenberg, right, with Phil Ward, director of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.

agreement with Barenbrug USA, Tangent, OR, authorizing that company to handle all phases of Lofts grass seed pro-

duction, packaging and shipping on the West Coast.

"This provides stability to the growers on the West Coast who were extremely nervous about ABT's bankruptcy and for two years didn't know who would buy their seed and take deliv-

ery," Barenbrug USA's Marc Cool told LM.

It also provides stability for

users of Lofts seeds on the East Coast. "Lofts is now able to focus on serving and supplying seed to users in the East," he added.

Meanwhile, J. R. Simplot, Post Falls, ID, reported that the part of ABT that it acquired includes the production and marketing rights for a number of turfgrass seed varieties, various international production contracts and several distribution locations.

The seed varieties include: L-93 creeping bentgrass, Southshore creeping bentgrass, Jamestown II chewings fescue and Jaguar 3 turf-type tall fescue. They have also acquired the rights to Signature bentgrass blend and Pinto wildflower mixture.

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Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Wilkinson describes the fungi that drive cool-season turfgrass managers crazy, how to tell one from another and how to control them. Wilkinson has held the position of turfgrass pathologist at Illinois since the inception of the position there in 1982. Call 217/333-7738; fax 217/244-3219; <http://www.turf.uiuc.edu/iaturf.htm>.

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