

industry almanac

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bobcat names new president

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ — Ingersoll-Rand Co. promoted Jim Sharp to president of Bobcat Company and president of the company's compact equipment business. Sharp succeeds Charles R. "Chuck" Hoge, who's leaving the company to pursue other opportunities.

Naturalawn opens seven new sites

FREDERICK, MD — Naturalawn of America Inc. lawn care franchise company has recently opened seven new locations in Portland, ME, North Denver, CO, Essex County, NJ, Oklahoma City, Provo, UT, Rochester, MN, and Providence, RI. Naturalawn currently has 55 lawn care franchises in 24 states.

Aquatrols' algaeicide approved

CHERRY HILL, NJ — Aquatrols has announced that state and federal registrations have been issued by the EPA for Radiance, a pre-emergent pond management tool.

Dakota expands production plant

EAST GRAND FORKS, MN — Dakota Peat & Equipment has completed expansion of its production facility here with an 80,000 sq. ft. building that will quadruple the company's production capability.

[CLIPPINGS]

Oh no! Not another El Niño

BY DONALD J. ARENBERG

If the limited water supply and possibility of rationing occurring along the whole eastern seaboard aren't enough of a challenge, now comes El Niño.

The national weather forecasting agency expects major droughts to continue in the southern and eastern seaboard through most of the spring into the summer. Forecasters blame the El Niño phenomenon that heats up the waters of the equatorial Pacific and pushes the jet stream farther south. They said this winter has been the warmest and driest in 105 years, and more than 70% of rivers and streams east of the Mississippi River are well below normal levels.

The summer of the last El Niño caused a major drought condition in the Midwest. Many sports turf managers and golf course superintendents watered their courses all night, but that didn't stop many fine turfed areas from drying out. The unusually dry conditions also retarded the growth of desirable grasses but multiplied problems caused by *Poa annua* and other weeds.

Take immediate action

You can mitigate many problems caused by another El Niño if you immediately start changing the build-up of harmful conditions created this winter.

The question most turf managers want to know the answer to is, "What can we do with limited water to keep the turf looking good and healthy?" One proven method involves increasing the plants' ability to absorb and retain water during a drought with catalytic enzymes. Recent discoveries have uncovered many natural catalytic enzymatic compounds that stimulate critical internal micro-biological reactions within plants. These reactions don't occur unless these specialized catalytic enzymes are present.

Studies of turfgrass, agriculture, horticultural

and crop-producing soils show that as these catalytic enzyme levels are depleted, the crop's health, quality and value are also reduced. It's also been discovered that specific enzymes are required for food crops, trees, flowers and turfgrasses. There isn't a single enzyme that works on all plants or all soils.



This sports field at River Forest H.S., Oak Park, IL, was left untreated after El Niño's last attack.

These catalytic enzymes stimulate and force the plants' own catalytic reactions but don't become part of the reaction. They're absorbed by the plant and are available in the plant to react when reacting conditions prevail.

These catalytic enzymes remain in the plant and are able to react again when the correct conditions occur. Each specific group of enzymes yield specific end results, but since most of the enzymes are compatible, multiple enzymes can be blended together to produce different desirable results.

In hoping for the best but planning for the worst regarding El Niño, start now to prepare your turfgrass for a stressful season.

— The author is a consulting agronomist and naturalist from Northbrook, IL, and has been in the turfgrass industry since 1956. For specific information, fax Arenberg at 847/272-8844.

New herbicides debut in '02

BY FRED YELVERTON, PH. D.

Four new herbicides are available for use in turfgrasses this year. This is great news for two reasons:

1. These four herbicides will be beneficial tools in turfgrass weed management.
2. Because various manufacturers are making significant financial investments in turfgrasses, they're optimistic about the future of the turfgrass business.

The following is a description of each new herbicide, including their trade names with common names in parentheses:

Tranxit GTA 25DF (rimsulfuron) is marketed by Griffin LLC and is a sulfonylurea herbicide for postemergent control of weeds in bermudagrass turf. It can be used on golf courses, sod farms, and professionally-managed college and professional sports fields. Most warm-season turfgrass species have tolerance, but Tranxit is currently registered only on bermudagrass. All cool-season turf species are injured to some degree. However, there are differences in tolerance among cool-season turf species. Perennial ryegrass appears to be the most sensitive. Tranxit will be used to control poa annua in bermudagrass and to remove perennial ryegrass from overseeded bermudagrass. Use rates will be 1 to 2 oz./acre.

Speed Zone (28.6% 2,4-D + 5.9% MCPP + 1.7% dicamba + 0.6% carfentra-

zone) will be used for broadleaf weed control and is manufactured and sold by PBI Gordon Corporation. This new herbicide mixture is similar to the older Trimec Classic herbicide but has the addition of carfentrazone, which is a new herbicide. Trimec Classic often was referred to as a three-way mix. Speed Zone may be referred to as a four-way mix. The addition of carfentrazone results in faster activity on various broadleaf weeds compared to Trimec Classic and other three-way mixtures. Speed Zone can be used on common and hybrid bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass, annual and perennial ryegrass, tall, red and fine leaf fescues, and creeping and colonial bentgrass (not putting greens). It can be used on golf courses, sod farms, commercial and residential turf and various other institutional and non-cropland sites. Use rates range from 2 to 5 pints per acre.

Speed Zone St. Augustine Formula (10.5% 2,4-D + 2.7% MCPP + 0.7% dicamba + 0.5% carfentrazone) from PBI Gordon will be used for broadleaf weed control and has the same four herbicides as the above-mentioned Speed Zone, but the concentrations are lower. Use rates range from 2 to 6 pints per acre. Speed Zone St. Augustine can be used in common and hybrid bermudagrasses, bahiagrass, zoysia-

QuickPRO gets OK

Monsanto's new QuickPRO herbicide recently received registration from the Environmental Protection Agency. It's now available to professional landscapers, lawn care operators and other vegetation management specialists in limited areas this spring. It isn't labeled in all states. QuickPRO is the next generation of Roundup PRO herbicide. "QuickPRO shows results as much as four times quicker than Roundup Pro on weeds," says Monsanto marketing manager Richard Morris.

grass, buffalograss, St. Augustinegrass, centipede, seashore paspalum, kikuyu-grass, Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass, annual and perennial ryegrass, tall, red, and fine leaf fescues, and creeping and colonial bentgrasses (not putting greens). It can be used on golf courses, sod farms, commercial and residential turf and various other institutional and non-cropland sites.

Power Zone (42% MCPA + 5.4% MCPP + 2.7% dicamba + 0.5% carfentrazone), the third new herbicide from PBI Gordon, will be used for broadleaf weed control. It's a four-way herbicide mixture but contains MCPA instead of 2,4-D. Use rates range from 2 to 6 pints per acre. In areas where 2,4-D use is a concern, Power Zone may be a viable alternative. Power Zone can be used on common and hybrid bermudagrasses, zoysiagrass, Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass, annual and perennial ryegrass, and tall, red and fine leaf fescues. It can be used on golf courses, commercial and residential turf, sod farms, and various other institutional and non-cropland sites.

— *The author is turfgrass extension specialist, North Carolina State University. Article from the NCSU Turffiles, www.turffiles.ncsu.edu.*

Landscape specification guidelines now available in Spanish

The Landscape Contractors Association (MD-DC-VA) announces that the Landscape Specification Guidelines, 5th Edition, is now available in Spanish.

The 114-page book includes sections on landscape installation, landscape maintenance, seeding and sodding, soils, tree preservation, non-tidal

wetland planting, interior landscape installation and maintenance, and irrigation.

The cost per book is \$65 for LCA members and \$130 for nonmembers. Order forms can be found under "publications" on the LCA Web site at www.lcamddcva.org.

Baker: Simplot turf and horticultural ready for action

BY JASON STAHL

Born and raised in Boise, Idaho, Joel Barker says he did what most everyone who's born in Idaho does after graduating from college: he took off to see more of the "real world" for 10 years, then came back when he realized Idaho was really the best place for him.

J.R. Simplot Company, headquartered

in Boise, turned out to be a perfect fit for Barker. He joined the company in 1989 as an accountant, then five years later became controller of the dairy product division. In 1999, he became vice president of finance for the turf and horticulture unit. Effective April 10, Barker will become that unit's general manager after playing an integral role on its strategic leadership team.



Joel Barker's glad he came back to Idaho.

Barker says his immediate intent is to make an aggressive move in the golf/landscape/ sports turf market.

"Over the last couple years, in building our turf business, we've

had to look inward to structure ourselves properly and gain the focus and alignment we needed," he says. "I feel we've done that now, and we now have something of value to provide customers."

Barker didn't rule out acquisition as an aggressive growth strategy. "We will continue to grow but not at a huge pace," he says. "It will be very strategic and based on acquisitions that fit our core businesses and ultimately benefit the customers because we have more services and products to provide."

The sluggish economy doesn't dampen Barker's spirits, but he's definitely aware of current changes in the marketplace. "With golf course construction at a standstill at this time, there's less opportunity there at this time. But that may only be temporary so we won't shut the door on that."

Scotts LawnService acquires The Lawn Company

BY JASON STAHL

The Scotts Company continued its path on the acquisition trail last month by purchasing The Lawn Company, a \$8 million lawn care service company in the Boston area.

The acquisition comes on the heels of Scotts' purchase of J.C. Ehrlich Co.'s lawn and tree care division in February. Thus far in 2002, Scotts LawnService has also acquired businesses in Memphis, Charlotte, Dayton, Milwaukee, and expanded its presence in metro Detroit.

"Our recent acquisitions keep us on target with our goal of having a substantial presence in the top 100 lawn service markets within the next several years,"

says James Hagedorn, president and CEO of The Scotts Company.

The Lawn Company owner Ed McGuire, who's been in the lawn care business for 25 years, says, at 57 years old, he's ready to retire. Asked what his plans are for the future, McGuire said he will pursue other business opportunities outside of lawn care.

"I own some real estate in the area now, and I may expand," he says. "I'm going to sort of take things as they come, maybe do some fishing this summer."

McGuire says he will continue his involvement with the Green Industry Alliance in Massachusetts, which he's been active in since the late '80s.



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Circle 111

NLA Hall of Famer gave industry a big lift

BY JASON STAHL

Walter Imahara was recently inducted into the National Landscape Association's (NLA) Hall of Fame for his muscle in the

Green Industry, but it's his muscle outside of the industry that makes him a little different than your average landscaper.

The retired owner of Imahara's Land-



Imahara holds the world record in snatch for his 60-64 age group.

scape Company, Baton Rouge, LA, holds the world record (90 kilos) for the snatch in the 60 to 64 age group. That's just one accomplishment in a star-studded career that includes three national collegiate titles, six national championships, and a gold medal in the Pan American Games in 1967. This month, he'll be defending his national championship for the 22nd time.

Imahara, who now weighs 148 lbs., says he was too small for other sports in college, which is why he started weightlifting.

When Imahara concluded his military service in 1968, he started his landscape business "on a shoestring," he says. Today, his cousin, Wanda Chase, runs the company, which has eight employees and over \$1 million in annual revenues.

"My association work didn't start until I went to an ANLA management clinic 25 years ago," Imahara says. Since then, he has served as president of the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen, Southern Nursery Association, and the NLA.

The only association Imahara is currently in charge of now is the International Weightlifting Federation. "After all this time, my body still works," he says. The secret? "A lot of training, common sense and intelligence when working out. You have to know your limits, yet, when you feel good, you need to push yourself and jump out of your comfort zone. If you don't, someone will pass you up."

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Circle 112

Legislators give NC turf big \$\$

BY RON HALL

RALEIGH, NC — The North Carolina State University turfgrass program got a financial boost when state legislators here approved \$600,000 to help fund a new Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research and Education at NCSU. The bill also earmarks \$100,000 to the state's agriculture commission, this money also targeted for turfgrass research and outreach.

The funding is ongoing, and organizers of the Center have already received the first year's money, since the bill was made retroactive to July 1, 2001.

The funding guarantees that the Center gets off to a strong start, says Sam Lang, owner of Fairway Green lawn care and a member of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina.

Lang, the driving force in the successful lobbying effort, describes the funding as "seed money." The ultimate goal is to fund the center at more than \$1.5 million, he says.

Rick L. Brandenburg, Ph.D., professor of entomology at NCSU, describes the



Rick Brandenburg

Center as an administrative organization within the university that, in many respects, operates independently of the university.

"The structure and function (Center) is determined by scientists, industry representatives

and university administration," he says.

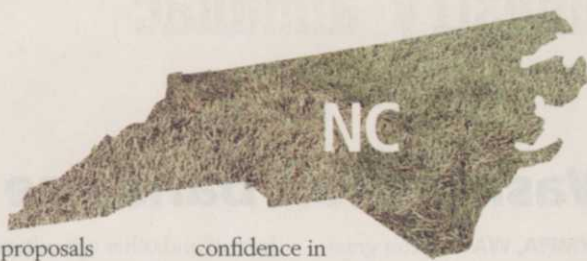
"The Center will give faculty more flexibility to interact and perform within their areas of interest," he explains. "You kind of run your own show."

Although the board members of the turfgrass center are just now completing the working documents required by the university, the Center is, for all practical purposes, up and running.

"We will have a call for proposals within the next month that will fund projects from July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003.

We are very fortunate that the state has

confidence in our program and legislators understand the importance of the turfgrass industry," says Brandenburg.



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Circle 113

Washington bans use of clopyralid on lawns

OLYMPIA, WA — After grass clippings contaminated a compost facility in Seattle, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture has banned the use of the herbicide clopyralid on lawns for 120 days. The department plans to make the ban permanent, and is considering additional restrictions on its use. The department published a Clopyralid Fact Sheet explaining the action. Seattle-area newspapers began covering the issue in December.

Clopyralid is manufactured by Dow AgroSciences and sold

for turf and other agricultural uses under a variety of trade names, such as Confront, Lontrel, Stinger and Transline.

The new restriction makes products containing clopyralid "state-restricted use" pesticides when labeled for use on lawns and turf, including golf courses. Golf courses are exempt from the ban as long as no grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation are removed from a course and sent to a composting facility that provides product to the public.

Last October, the U.S. Composting Council published a position paper, warning that damage to non-target crops from clopyralid-contaminated compost has been documented in Washington state, Pennsylvania and New Zealand.

species." It is conducting research and working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address the issue.

The company points out that: "Confront herbicide is one of the most widely used clopyralid product for clover, dandelion, wild violet, chickweed, henbit and plantain control. Prior to its introduction, lawn care companies treated lawns three to five times per year with other products, often applied at higher rates. Clopyralid has helped applicators reduce the amount and frequency of herbicide applications."

Dow AgroSciences working with U.S. EPA to address the compost issue

On March 20, Dow AgroSciences released a media advisory stating it is "committed to reducing the risk of it entering compost at levels that could cause injury to sensitive plant

You can read the company's position paper: "Clopyralid and Compost," on the company's Web site www.dowagro.com.

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Left, Ed Koenig, Lifestyle Landscaping, North Ridgeville, OH, and Joseph Schill, Schill Landscaping & Lawn Care, Sheffield Village, right, teamed with Gerald E. Haney, Yard Works, Inc., Avon Lake, to tell Ohio Landscape Association members that 2002 looks promising.