

# 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.