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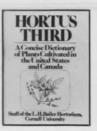
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WTT 55

Midwest next boom for irrigation

Much of the water-rich Midwest remains almost virgin territory for home irrigation systems. That could be changing in the not-to-distant future.

Representatives from Rain Bird and Toro Irrigation told attendees at the recent Reinders Turf & Irrigation Conference that irrigation will take on increased importance, even in areas where it is now uncommon, as home owners realize the value of well-maintained lawns and landscapes.

"Irrigation awareness is growing by leaps and bounds," said Don Bulmer, district sales manager of Toro Irrigation. "The growth of irrigation is staggering.'

Bulmer explained that 52 percent of single family residences in Southern California possess irrigation systems, but in the Midwest the figure drops to about 3 percent.

Bulmer, pointing to the phenomenal growth in the past decade of such amenities as automobile air conditioning and central air in homes, predicted 40 to 50 percent of all homes will have irrigation by the year 2005.

Water conservation, however, will remain a concern of irrigation

companies.

"Water is becoming a very scarce commodity in many parts of the country," Rain Bird's Desi Williamson added. He said products like electronic "rain checks", which shut a system down during a rain, and "moisture sensor inhibitors", which keep a system from operating until there's a need, indicate the growing sophistication of irrigation systems.



GCSAA outlines mid-year conference

The Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, IN, is the site of the 1985 GCSAA Mid-Year Conference and Show. The date is Sept. 19-24.

Says GCSAA President Eugene D. Baston: "GCSAA members have expressed a need for information that will assist them in training their own staffs. With this conference, we will be answering those needs.'

On the GCSAA agenda are seven education seminars, staff technician training courses, a golf/turfgrass market research workshop, a turfgrass research conference, and a national golf championship to benefit turfgrass research.

The staff technician training courses will be "hands on" with the involvement of manufacturers. They will focus on equipment repair, irrigation equipment operation, pesticide safety and applications, and golf car repair and maintenance.

In addition, 20 of the nation's leading scientists are expected to present updates on all major turfgrass research being funded with GCSAA's support.

A national "selling and buying" type exhibition trade show is planned in conjunction with the conference and an outside turfgrass equipment

demonstration.

"September is an excellent time for manufacturers and distributors for golf course equipment and supplies to demonstrate their products as this is the time of the year when golf course managers plan purchases," Baston adds. "We believe this mid-year conference will be very beneficial to our members and to our advertisers and distributors.'

A one-day golf championship will be played with the proceeds going to turfgrass research.



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GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Groundwater scare spreads

Concern over contamination of groundwater in New York, Florida and New Jersey is spreading to other states, the most recent being Connecticut. The Connecticut Tree Protective Association sent a legislative alert out to arborists and land-scapers in late February to help counteract overzealous state lawmakers excited by recent groundwater contamination stories.

Industry members get concerned when state laws venture too far from national ones. In this case, two bills are in question. One requires monthly reports to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and posting of job sites. Another would allow the state to change the classification of a pesticide regardless of Federal action.

Seed label laws come to terms

'Noxious' or 'undesirable' makes a big difference to seed companies in Pennsylvania and other Atlantic states.

Afraid of different labelling requirements for each state, people like Adikes' Bob Russell are opposed to new state seed label laws. Others, like Penn State University's Dr. Joe Duich, feel stronger laws will improve the overall image of seed from reputable companies.

The biggest problem may be the states don't talk to each other when formulating their regulations, or do they? Progress has been made through regional regulatory officials, helping change the terminology of 'noxious', required by state laws on seed labels, to 'undesirable'. But the battle is not over, even with the change in terminology. It should be a hot topic at the American Seed Trade Association meeting this summer.

Reclamation laws may fall short

When abandoned mine reclamation funds expire in 1992, thousands of acres of scarred lands will remain, according to a recent report by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Not only are the lands scarred, but they pour nearly 2,400 tons of sediment per square mile per year into Tennessee Valley waterways alone. The TVA report states, "The abandoned mine problem will not go away; rather it will, in many cases, become more critical and costly to solve."

The Federal Reclamation laws were first implemented in 1977. They represented a great opportunity for landscape contractors, but much of this potential was lost as mining companies battled the laws in court.

TVA has developed a report, Orphans of the Valley, to describe the seriousness of reclamation laws falling short.

ASSOCIATION

Florida nurserymen seek bad check law

The Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association is pressing the state legislature there to stiffen bad check laws. If successful, the familiar refrain "the check is in the mail"—particularly if it's a bad check—might not be so common.

"From a commercial standpoint, this issue of bad checks is a big problem," Allen Bernard, executive vice president of the FNGA, tells Weeds Trees & Turf. "Our effort is a move to put some teeth into the law."

Current Florida law almost requires a check to be signed in front of a merchant before the drawer can be prosecuted for writing a bad check. Therefore prosecution arising from checks delivered by deliverymen or through the mail is rare. The problem of postdated checks has also caused dissatisfaction with present laws.

The FGNA is asking the legislature to rewrite the statute to allow businesses to create a check cashing card file for each customer which would include name, address, telephone number and signature of that customer. The card could be used as a basis of identification for the check writer—the main stumbling block to prosecution in the present law. Postdated checks would be eliminated as well.

"Even with these changes very few would ever be prosecuted," Bernard adds. "But the threat of prosecution might get them to pay, and that's really the intent of it all."

A draft of the FNGA proposal, which is gaining support from other non-related industries, is in legislative committee.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Toma speaks, crowd big at Sports Institute

The Sports Turf Institute, held in March at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, doubled in size from its inaugural meeting last year.

Show organizer Professor Kent Kurtz started with the conference last year based on requests received by the University for assistance with both professional and school fields. The first show last May attracted more than 250 field managers and 8 exhibitors. This year's show drew more than 550 field managers and 30 exhibitors. It also attracted stadium management from the Rose Bowl, San Diego Stadium, Anaheim Stadium and the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Well-known sports field expert continued on page 84





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DANIEL from page 8

Although many of the students stretched their remembrances of their former professor for a chuckle, the thanks were heartfelt.

"One of the real strong points that separate him from other professors is his sincere interest in his students, even when they leave Purdue," says Charlie Tadge, superintendent of Mayfield Country Club near Cleveland and a 1958 Purdue grad. "He keeps track of his students and has helped many of us in our careers."

At a dinner in the Purdue Memorial Union the following night Bruce Shank, executive editor of Weeds Trees & Turf magazine, presented Daniel with the publication's "Man of the Year" Award. He is the fourth recipient of the award. Previously honored by the magazine were: Dr. Fred Grau, Monty Moncrief, and Al Radko.

Filling the void in Purdue's Department of Agronomy left by Daniel's retirement promises to be a tall order. Members of a university search committee met soon after the conference to solidify a job description for a "quality" replacement.

"We hope to attract somebody that's already out in the professional ranks," a university spokesperson. says. "We think it's an attractive enough situation to advertise at the associate professor level."

As for Daniel, looking fit and trim at the conference, retirement from academia probably means a greater involvement with the promotion and marketing of his PAT system for athletic fields.

GOLF

Fiber covers can save turf

Dr. John Roberts says golf course managers in the North should recognize fiber turf covers as a valuable "tool" in maintaining greens on their courses. They can be of particular value in the period between the spring thaw and the opening of a course for play

Roberts of the University of New Hampshire says spun-bonded, polyester covers used on New England courses helped in four ways:

- 1 by reducing dessication
- 2 by speeding spring green-up
- 3 by keeping unwanted traffic off
- 4 by hastening seed germination rates by as much as 10 days.

Although several materials were tested. Roberts says the most effective seems to be a translucent material weighing one ounce and costing about five cents per sq. meter. This material (Reemay by DuPont) allows light to reach the turf, encouraging "normal" growth, he points out.

Roberts made these comments at the recent Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University.

EDUCATION

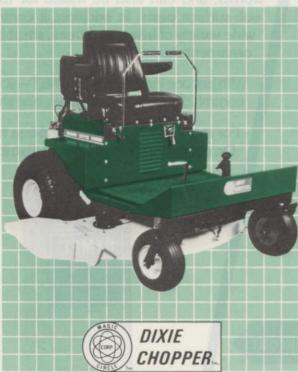
Toro funds endowment; announces competition

Good news from Toro Irrigation for the landscape industry.

Toro, through an endowment fund, is financing a course book on irrigation. The California-based company is making direct contributions totalling \$50,000 over five years to the program. Interest from the fund is earmarked for use by The Landscape Architecture Foundation, Washington D.C., in putting together the irrigation reference book (in the format of the LAF "Handbook" series). Other educational materials will be funded from the endowment.

continued on page 84

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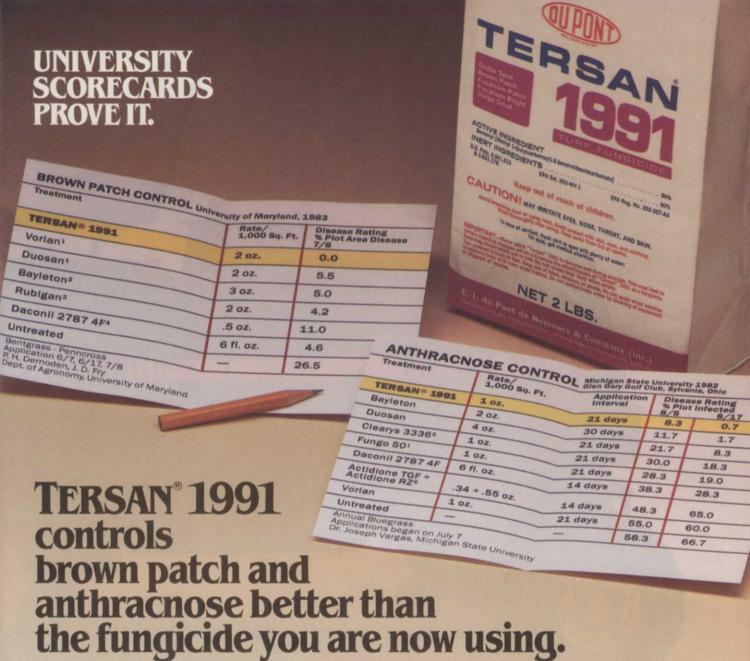
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other mowers. And those same local dealers can provide you with something else that's very important. Fast service. On those rare occasions when you need repairs, they have the people that can diagnose the problem and have you back mowing in no time.

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