UAWAY CARE

Campaign to plug lawn care gets results

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Throughout 1985, Stanner allower T

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DIAZINON

The bug stops here.

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PESTICIDES

News media overplays posticide risks, says toxicology expert

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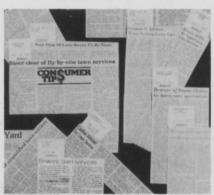
LAWN CARE

Campaign to plug lawn care gets results

Stauffer Chemical Company says its campaign to promote the professional lawn care industry gained the industry exposure in hundred of publications during 1985.

"Stauffer also received several hundred phone calls and letters from lawn care operators regarding the program," says Greg Bushman, marketing manager for the company's specialty products group. "Response to the campaign has been very positive."

Throughout 1985, Stauffer submit-



Just a sampling of the "ink" generated by Stauffer Chemical's lawn care industry exposure campaign.

ted articles to more than 1,100 newspapers, home and garden columnists, and university extension information offices.

"These articles gave the PLCAA high exposure, as well as educating the public on proper lawn care," Bushman says.

Press kits are available from Frank Lukasik, Agricultural Chemical Division, Stauffer Chemical Company, Westport, CT, (203) 222-3254.

SEED

Turfseed report is not good for 1986

The pessimistic report on turfseed availability issued in the October, 1985 issue of WEEDS TREES & TURF has worsened, according to a leading industry observer.

Lesco Inc. vice-president Art Wick, speaking before the Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation, said, "We're concerned with the availability not only of Kentucky bluegrass but of all species."

Wick cited winter weather in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, where

much of the country's turfseed is produced, as the main cause.

Temperatures and snowfall in the Pacific Northwest have not been as bad in 40 years, Wick reported. He added that, in some instances, entire crops have been lost, and that skimpy 20 percent yields among some cultivars are not unusual.

The crop of Kentucky bluegrass hardest hit by fall rain and winter freezes—is entirely sold out for 1986, Wick also noted.

PESTICIDES

News media overplays pesticide risks, says toxicology expert

The frequency of filing injury claims related to the use of pesticides has increased in the last decade. Dr. Eric Comstock of the American Board of Medical Toxicology believes that sensationalism by the news media has caused the rise of such claims.

Comstock also blames the increase on ill-founded public hysteria caused by groups such as New York's "People Against Chlordane" and physicians with academic credentials "who regularly make reckless projections based on animal data of future human risk of cancer from trivial contact."

During his 23 years in practice, Comstock has treated about 8,000 cases concerning pesticide exposure.

The cases dealing with turf insecticides include 83 for diazinon, 43 for chlorpyrifos, 30 for baygon, and one each for maneb and daconil.

Comstock emphasizes, however, that while there have been some deaths in the thousands of cases, all survivors have shown complete recovery except for contact with one pesticide which has never been approved for use in the United States.

"There has been no instance of poisoning among consumers whose contact has been limited to the final application concentrations of the pesticides," Comstock says. "The poison mystic, fueled largely by the news media in recent years, has provoked numerous episodes of mass hysteria which burden the pest control industry with a wide spectrum of clinical conditions having no chemical relationship to the pesticide."

Constock has labeled the condition "toxic habitation syndrome," referring to individuals with irrational anxiety about the contamination of the household or community environment.

Symptoms can include headaches, continued on page 17



Frank J. McDonald, Director of Marketing Cushman Division, Outboard Marine Corporation Lincoln, Nebraska

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Frank J. McDonald

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My ratio of liquid to granular usage is

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WTT

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PESTICIDES from page 12

nausea or skin rashes, but abnormalities in target organs always are absent, he says.

Also, symptoms tend to remain the same whether the contamination is from chlorinated pesticides, organophosphate pesticides, herbicides or a variety of gases.

"The cause of the anxiety reaction is not the substance," Comstock says. "The precipitating is clearly identified in the news media and the societal response would be the same whatever the substance alleged to be involved."

TURF

New York women form 'Women in Turfgrass'

With more women entering the turfgrass industry, several members of the New York State Turfgrass Association have organized Women in Turfgrass (WITS), a group for networking and educational purposes.

WITS made its debut with a breakfast at the NYSTA turfgrass conference and trade show late last year.

Organizer Janet Dudones said 15 women attended the breakfast meeting. Those women held positions in the industry ranging from golf course owner, to turfgrass researchers for companies and universities.

"Turfgrass was previously not

considered an occupation for women," Dudones said. "This group is needed to show that women can work in the industry and that they're doing a good job."

Dudones, president and owner of the Ed Worthington Corporation, said very few women enter the industry through landscaping and grounds maintenance. Many women, in fact, get involved with their husband's businesses.

Dudones and other members of WITS would like to educate young women in high schools and colleges to consider a career in the field.

"One of our goals is to see what's available in schools," Dudones said. "Most have horticulture programs, but few emphasize the turfgrass industry."

WITS has looked at ways to accomplish this, including designing a brochure, to be distributed at schools and groups such as 4-H, advocating turfgrass careers for women.

Other goals of the WITS include making women more visible in turfgrass publications, developing a networking list, conducting a survey of NYSTA members and creating a resume file for prospective employees.

WITS plans to meet this summer at the Cornell Turf Field Day.

For women interested in joining WITS or starting a similar organization in other states, write Dudones at the Ed Worthington Corporation, 50 Petrova Ave., Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

TURF

Agrono-Tec markets three new turf types

Agrono-Tec of Escondido, Calif., is marketing three new turf types.

Turf Star, a blend of top-rated perennial ryegrass, contains a calcium endophyte fungus which provides resistance to insects. It shows heat resistance, cold tolerance, close mowing capabilities and disease resistance, according to Agrono-Tec.

Tempo Turf type tall fescue shows resistance to disease, wear tolerance, color and texture, says Agrono-Tec. It also does well in shaded conditions.

Water Saver Turf type tall fescue requires 20 percent less water than bluegrass and also resists disease.

For more information, contact Agrono Tec at (619) 480-9382.

LANDSCAPE

College now offers landscape degree

Influenced by the rapid growth of the landscape industry, a Wisconsin technical college has developed a degree in landscape management.

North Campus, Milwaukee Area Technical College in Mequon, Wis., now offers an associate degree in landscape management.

"While landscape management is a new business, it is already making its mark on what was once the provi-

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dence of a multitude of caretakers," says Mary Oberndorfer, a landscape management instructor.

The new program teaches an integrated approach to grounds planning, maintenance, and development.

The college staff worked closely with industry experts to design a program which includes both study and hands-on experience.

Students can also specialize in area such as fertilizer use, pest control, irrigation design, tree care, and construction.

For more information on the program, write the Horticulture Department, MATC North Campus, 5555 W. Highland Rd. Mequon, WI 53092, or call (414) 242-6500.

FUNGICIDES

Granular fungicide gets government OK

Mallinckrodt, Inc., has received federal registration for its Banrot 8.G, a broad spectrum granular root rot fungicide, originally introduced in 1973 as a wettable powder.

Mallinckrodt says Banrot 8.G can be used in the greenhouse, nursery, and the interiorscape. It works for the prevention and control of damping off, root rot, and stem rot caused by some water mold fungi and soilborne fungi.

Banrot 8.G is available in 40 pound drums at Mallinckrodt distributors.

CHEMICALS

Balan offered in new particle size

Elanco Products has changed the particle size in Balan herbicide to improve spreadability, reduce dust, and increase calibration accuracy, says the Indianapolis-based company.

The new particle size results from the use of a clay carrier, which spreads more uniformly than limestone or corncob carriers. New spreader settings for Balan appear on the bag.

Elanco says Balan provides preemergence control of crabgrass in turf for 8 to 10 weeks with one application. A second application controls goosegrass. It can be used on all common varieties of cool- and warm-season turfgrasses.

LAWN CARE

It's no surprise: Kentucky blue and rye are favorites

Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass are the favorites of lawn care operators nationwide, according to a survey conducted by International Seeds Inc.

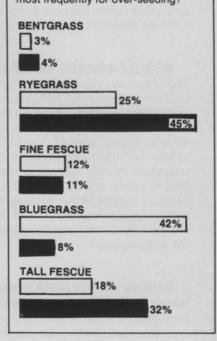
Forty-two of 100 northern lawn applicators who answered the survey questions cited Kentucky bluegrass as being the type of grass they use most frequently for new lawn installations. And 45 percent of 50 southern lawn applicators said they use ryegrass most frequently for overseeding.

The survey was held at the Professional Lawn Care Association of America's convention and trade show in Tampa, Fla., last November.

GRASS USAGE

NORTHERN D NORTHERN LAWN APPLICATORS Q: What type of grass do you use most frequently for new lawn installations?

SOUTHERN SOUTHERN LAWN APPLICATORS Q: What type of grass do you use most frequently for over-seeding?



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SHORTCUTS

FREEBIE......Elanco Products Co. is giving away sprayers to users of Surflan herbicide. End users of Surflan can receive either a Solo backpack sprayer or a Chem-Lawn spray gun free with the purchase of 50 gallons of Surflan 4AS. The Solo backpack sprayer comes equipped with a pressure regulator and two-nozzle spray boom. The Chem-Lawn spray gun is available with a choice of nozzles, which provide either four to five gallons per minute or two to three gallons per minute. Also available is a Solo Hanjet compression sprayer.

ANOTHER FREEBIE.....Our friends in New Jersey tell us that a condensed version of the Economic Survey of the New Jersey turfgrass industry is available at no cost. The leaflet is available upon request from the Publications Office at Cook College (Rutgers University).

BERMUDAGRASS VS. ZOYSIAGRASS..... According to Dr. Jack Murray, research agronomist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md., zoysiagrass stacks up pretty well in a comparison with bermudagrass. Here's what he says: in shade tolerance, zoysia is superior; in wear tolerance, zoysia is superior; in rate of spread, bermuda is superior; in recovery, bermuda is superior; in cold tolerance, zoysia is superior; and in fall and spring color, zoysia is superior. A couple of other points Dr. Murray makes about zoysiagrass; its major problems are difficulties in establishment and its long winter dormancy period. He says northern transition zone areas provide the best climate for zoysiagrass.

SPRING WATER SPRAYING...... Spring is just around the corner so it might be time for some of you in the transition zone (and maybe even some northern areas) to start thinking about aquatic weed control. Dr. Joe Downs, a technical specialist with Monsanto Agricultural Products Co., says there are several things you should keep in mind when using chemicals to control water weeds: 1) applications made in moving water must be made while traveling upstream to prevent concentration build-up; 2) do not apply within .5 mile upstream of a potable water intake; 3) do not apply in estuaries; and 4) do not apply on rice levees when flood water is present. Application of chemicals in water is an exact science. Exercise prudence while applying.

NO MORE POA... ...Scott Niven, property manager at The Stanwich Club, Stanwich, Conn., used to water his poa annua fairways up to four times a day to keep them cool and green. That's when he decided to make the switch to bentgrass. But Niven said he couldn't have done it without Cutless. "Can't fertilize and get the dark green that a Cutless application will give," Niven said. Using Cutless not only gave him improved color and vitality of the perennial grasses, but also reduced the mowing requirements and grass clippings (by almost 50 percent) over eight to 10 weeks. The Cutless reduced thatch and eliminated various weeds. Primarily, it inhibited the poa annua, allowing the bentgrass to grow in.

PEOPLE

Names in the news

Marshall Bossard, groundskeeper at Cleveland Municipal Stadium, has retired after a 48-year career. Bossard is the last of the famous Bossard family that for many years made the baseball field the best in the American League, following father Emil and brother Harold.

Charles R. Johnson, president of California Landscape, Canoga Park,



Calif., has been installed as new president of the California Landscape & Irrigation Council. He succeeds Mickey Strauss of American Landscape, Canoga Park, Calif. Other officers are Klaus W. Ahlers, Art

Charles Johnson

Torres, John Carlson, William N. Cohen and Julie Kitch.

Ahmed Daoud Ali has been added to the cooperative extension office of the University of California, Riverside. Ali has a Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.

John Betts has been named golf course superintendent for the Port Royal Golf Clubs, Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Island, S.C. The graduate of the University of Michigan moves up from assistant superintendent.

New officers in the North Central Weed Control Conference are Calvin G. Mesersmith of North Dakota State University, R. Gordon Harvey of the University of Wisconsin, Loyd M. Wax of the USDA, Earl W. Chamberlain of Ciba-Geigy, Jerry D. Doll of the University of Wisconsin; Edward W. Stoller, of the USDA, John W. Nalewaja and Alan Dexter of North Dakota State, Ellery L. Knake of the University of Illinois, and Robert Schmidt.

Aquatrols Corp. has announced a personnel change. Andy Moore has been promoted to national sales manager for Aqua-Gro and Foliocote.

Three dealers were added to Elanco's network: Nick Clifford of Clifford Enterprises, St. Louis; Benn Heskett and Tim King of B.A. Heskett, Worthington, Ohio; and Ed Swallow of Portland, Ore.

Bill Riden has been named Chipco turf and ornamental product sales specialist, covering eastern Pennsylvania and New York State. He has previously worked for Mobay, W.A. Cleary and O.M. Scott & Son.