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Army/Navy Country Club golf course. The course had been sprayed with Daconil.

The case has been repeatedly touted by anti-pesticide activists as proof that lawn pesticides are dangerous.

"We've just been beaten up by it so many times in the media," says Steve Hardymon, spokesman for ChemLawn Services, Columbus, Ohio. "We're just happy to have it behind us."

Adds Jim Wilkinson, executive director of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation: "This is just one thorn out of our sides. Wherever we go, they're (activists) always referring to it."

Greg Richards was working for a lawn care company in Washington, D.C., where Prior lived, in 1983 when the suit was filed. Richards, now product manager at Lesco Inc., remembers that the suit was featured prominently in local media.

Customers, understandably concerned, would ask them if they used Daconil, Richards says.

"It just takes a tool away from some of these environmentalists who have been pounding away at it for years and years," Richards says. "The case was used as a reference against all pesticides."

"There is no question in my mind that Daconil was in no way related to Lt. Prior's death," notes Robert Arthur, the lead defense attorney. He summarized the two sides' arguments.

For the plaintiffs, Dr. Lord said he determined, through infrared photography, that Daconil was present on Prior's golf balls, clubs and shoes, as well as the golf course. He said Prior had been plagued by unusual health complaints after playing on the course.

Arthur says two other doctors supported Dr. Lord's conclusions but offered no investigation of their own: Dr. Kenneth Chase, an internal medicine specialist, and toxicologist Ruth Shearer, Ph.D.

Two of the defense witnesses took issue with Dr. Lord's method of determining Daconil was present on the grass at the time Prior played.

Samuel Goward, Ph.D., an expert in infrared photography, said the quality of the photography was too poor to determine any type of chemical was present. Keith Flohr, a chemist, said the fluorescence revealed in Dr. Lord's photos could not be known to be that of Daconil, but healthy grass.

ACADEMIA

Students and city cooperate on training with industry reps

A number of turf and tree care companies joined forces with Paul Smith's College last summer to educate urban tree management students, while also beautifying the streets and parks of Plattsburgh, N.Y.

The program was developed by college urban tree management coordinator Grove Katzman and teaching assistant Harry Pearsall. Under the program, industry representatives provided a wide variety of demonstrations and lectures to the students, who then practiced what they learned in the real-life laboratory of this northeastern New York municipality.

James Fenstermacher of ChemLawn, Malcolm Johnson of the S.V. Moffett Co. and Dave de Sousa of the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. conducted seminars and field training. Also lending a hand was Dave Armstrong of the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

"Everybody benefits," believes Katzman. "It's a hands-on training exercise that allows our students to gain practical experience while being involved in a very positive project."

Practical demonstrations were held at the Plattsburgh municipal beach, Bailey Avenue and West End parks and a local golf course.

"This is something that's never

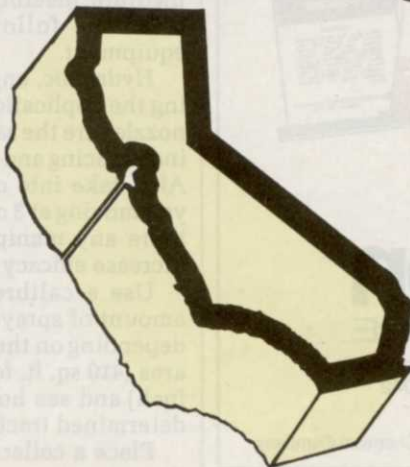


Jim Fenstermacher of ChemLawn points out weed problems to UTM students in Bailey Avenue Park. Photo by D. Czuprynski.

been done before," Katzman continues. "It's new and it's different. Although a tremendous number of problems are involved, there is also a great opportunity here to really accomplish something."

LEGISLATION

Landscape board puts halt to threatening legislation



California landscapers certainly can't control the amount of water that falls from the sky. But when government attempts to restrict their business, they move.

California is in the grip of its worst drought since 1977 (see "News/Trends"). Consequently, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in the San Francisco area announced plans to impose stringent water control measures to minimize the crisis. EBMUD's proposal included water rationing programs and a ban on all landscaping projects until the rains return. Period.

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The idea of waiting until winter to resume work, however, didn't sit well with the state's highly-organized landscape industry. Instead, they joined forces and were able to head off many of the strong actions EBMUD was considering.

The architect of the industry's counter-offensive is Chet Sarsfield, owner of Irrigation Technical Services of Lafayette, Calif. He is an active member of several state organizations, including the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA), American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the Northern California Turfgrass Council (NCTC).

"When the problem came about (early March) we just got together and talked about it," says Sarsfield. "Several of us volunteered our time, called together some meetings and decided to do something about it."

Representatives from the Northern California Landscape Architects, California Association of Nurserymen, Northern California Gardeners Federation, Irrigation Association, and sod growers also are on the board.

The 15-member group, dubbed the Green Industry Landscape Advisory Board, went to work. Armed with a five-hour presentation that covered everything from an overview of the impact of EBMUD's proposed solution to a lesson in irrigation and landscape design, the group was able to get EBMUD to back away from its early, severe proposals to adopt a more compromising position.

California landscapers, instead of being banned from working or at least paying ferocious water rates, will instead be using water-tolerant plant materials and postpone the laying or planting of turf until the drought subsides. In addition, EBMUD announced its intention to use the board as an advisory group available for consultation on a continuing basis.

Sarsfield says that in addition to serving EBMUD, the group will undertake a campaign to educate water companies, nurseries, even homeowners throughout the area about proper irrigation and water use.

"I think this group is unique in this country," adds Sarsfield, "and successful too."

MAINTENANCE

Calibrating equipment increases profitability for Landscapers

Calibrating spreaders, sprayers and other instruments you use to distribute pesticides and fertilizers will increase your profitability, says Bruce Augustin, Ph.D. at Lesco, Inc., Rocky River, Ohio.

Landscape managers at the Turfgrass and Landscape Institute meeting in Anaheim recently heard Augustin offer the following advice on calibrating various equipment.

Hydraulic, engine-powered sprayers. Before determining the application rate of these devices, make sure all its nozzles are the same type, find out if they feature 10- or 20-inch spacing and if they are all at the same specified height. Also, take into consideration your spraying pattern: are you moving at 3 or 4 miles per hour during application; are there any manipulations of the sprayer you can use to increase efficacy or safety?

Use a calibrated measuring cup to determine the amount of sprayed material you're going to apply. Then, depending on the spacing of the nozzles, measure a course area (410 sq. ft. for 20-inch spaced nozzles and 205 for 10-inch) and see how long it takes to travel that length at a determined tractor speed.

Place a collection cup beneath one sprayer nozzle for the same amount of seconds it would take to cover the



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above-mentioned distance. The number of ounces you collect are equal to the number of gallons you're applying per acre.

Spray nozzles. Measure a 1000-sq. ft. area (40×25 feet) and spray it with a known amount of water in the same manner you would spray in the field.

When the area is sprayed, you know your application rate per 1000 sq. ft. This allows you to adjust to the sprayer's walking speed to meet the desired application level.

Augustin also recommended using a new meter introduced by Great

Plains Industry that measures flow rate. It fits on a spray gun and gives a direct reading of gallons per minute.

"Many of these techniques apply across the board. They're very fundamental," said Augustin. "Your livelihood depends on efficient, economical application, and by properly calibrating sprayers and spreaders, you'll defi-



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nitely help control your costs and make yourself more profitable."

DISEASES

Isolating a 'new' patch disease

A number of years ago, a patch disease appeared on the turf scene that displayed all the classic characteristics of other patch diseases.

It would occur suddenly, producing distinct patches and rings in the turf. Turf crowns and roots were usually both involved with an ectotrophic fungi.

The disease's response to various fungicides differed, especially to sterile inhibitors such as Bayleton and Rubigan. The fungicides had an unpredictable, unexplainable effect.

This disease, though similar to fusarium blight, didn't match up, notes Gayle Worf, Ph.D., a turfgrass pathologist at the University of Wisconsin. In looking at the crown of the plant for its health, there was evidence of a dark ectotrophic fungus that was proven to be doing damage to the crown.

Diagnosis showed symptoms of the disease included an abundance of the dark fungi in the crown and root and elimination of other possible causes of the stressed appearance of the turf such as drought.

Researchers isolated the organism and worked to demonstrate its pathogenicity. The isolation separated the disease from summer patch and the new disease was named: necrotic ring spot.

Worf found that various cultural practices helped to control or enhance the disease. Higher fertility enhanced the disease though thatch had no effect.

He found that turfgrass varieties strongly affected the disease's onset and severity and recovery potential from disease. "Few if any varieties are completely resistant," Worf states, "but some are worse than others. Rye blends do very well."

LEGISLATION

ACA members urged to fight insurance plan

The American Cemetery Association (ACA) is urging its membership to fight proposed legislation that will require employers to cover their employees working 17½ hours per week or more under a comprehensive health benefits plan.

The bill, S. 1265, was introduced by

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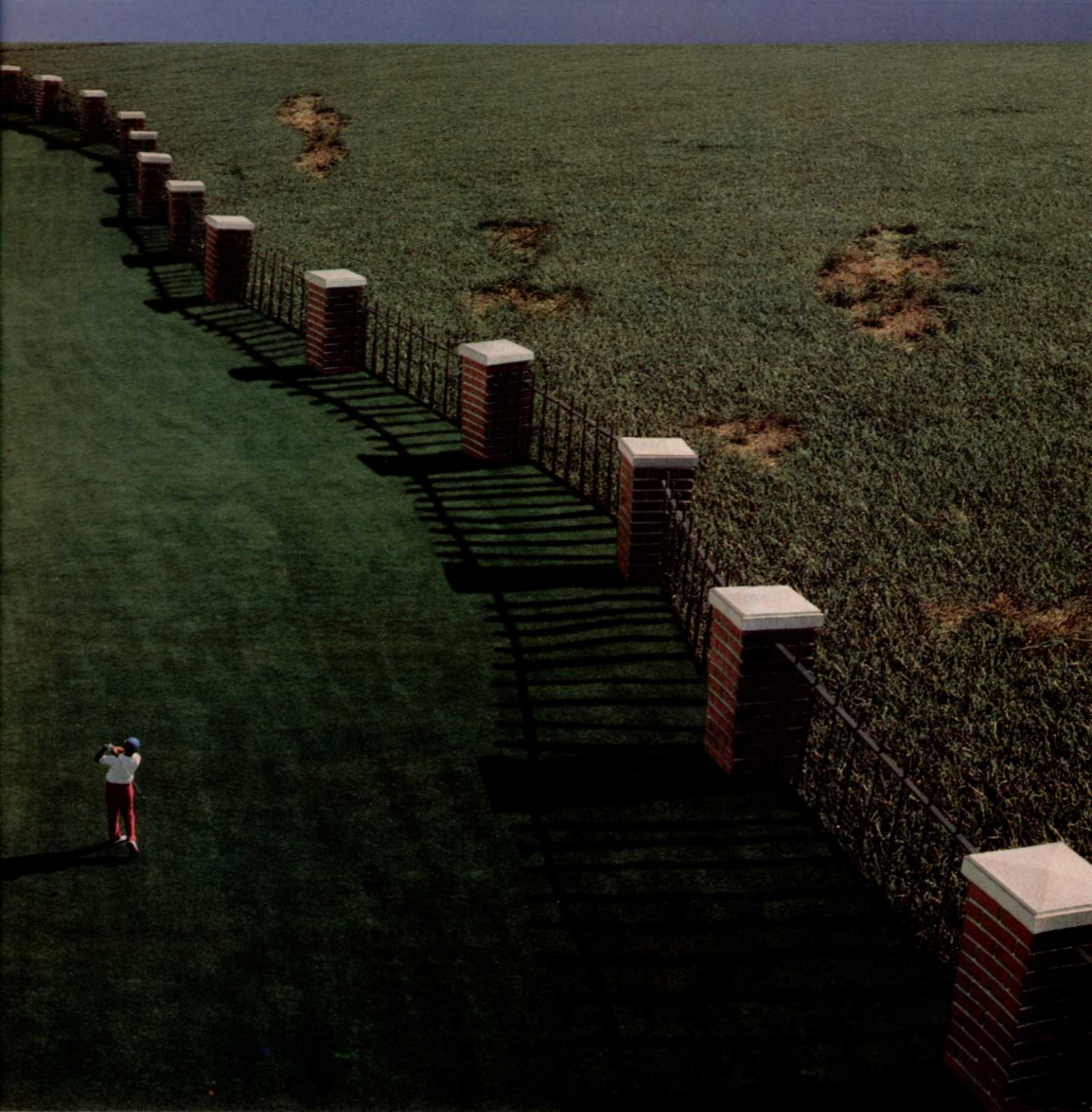
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Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). It requires employers to pay about 80 percent of the cost of health premiums. This will cost employers \$27.1 billion a year, says the government, assuming coverage is purchased through indemnity rather than managed care plans.

The ACA is asking its members to send Mailgrams to their senators that state your opposition to the plan. Make your message short and to the point, refer specifically to S. 1265, and thank the senator for help in defeating the bill, says the ACA.

AWARDS

Software, creator earn award nominations

"Slice," a computer system developed for the landscape and nursery industry, and its creator, Gary Thornton, have been nominated to receive awards from the International Data Base Management Association.

Thornton, president of Thornton Computer Management Systems in Cincinnati, is nominated to receive the Association's Technical Achievement Award while "Slice" is one of four programs nominated for the

"Most Innovative" category.

Nominations were made at the third annual Pro-Gramme Awards Presentation in Anaheim, Calif.

INSECTS

Brazilian fly tackles mole crickets

A red-eyed Brazilian fly was recently released in a Florida pasture in an attempt to control spreading mole cricket damage. The effort was reported by Tom Walker, Ph.D., entomologist with the mole cricket control project at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Gainesville.

About the size of house fly, *Euphioptrex depleta* comes to the mating call of mole crickets and lays her living larvae on or near the singer. The larvae then burrow into the male and mate.

"Ten days later, the mole cricket is dead," says Walker. "The larvae come out, pupate and start all over."

Exotic mole crickets, whose tunnels brown-out golf courses, lawns and commercial turf operations, came from South America, probably in the sand ballast of ships. "The flies belong

to a group of 20 fly species that only parasitize crickets, mole crickets and katydids," adds Walker. "Mole crickets are not that abundant in Brazil. This is one of the organisms that keep them in line."

RESEARCH

Biological amendment shows promise in studies AT MSU

Studies conducted at Michigan State University in 1987 showed that monthly applications of Bio Control from KLM Bio Systems reduced "disease expression" of necrotic ring spot and summer patch on Kentucky bluegrass and annual bluegrass.

Necrotic ring spot reduction was significant after three or four applications, according to research conducted by graduate student Brad Melvin and plant pathologist Joe Vargas, Ph.D.

Studies on test plots at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Station in East Lansing also showed the plant growth hormones and microbes in Bio Control reduced thatch in Kentucky bluegrass compared to untreated check plots. The pathogens of both diseases

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