

## Drought spawns controversy

The "If-I-can't-have-it-neither-can-you" mentality hit northeastern Ohio golf courses hard in July over water use. The drought conditions forced homeowner watering bans that did not include businesses—which golf courses are considered.

Though about two inches of rainfall cooled tempers in the latter part of the month, the dry heat of the first part of the month did more than brown out turf. Most superintendents around the area got more than a few headaches from neighbors.

Superintendent Jean Esposito, of Hinckley Hills Golf Course, in Hinckley, had her share of troubles. When her lakes started dropping dangerously low, she researched ways of replenishing the level since heavy rainfall seemed out of the question.

She found through a series of applications, the course could get permission to draw water legally from the City of Cleveland. The necessary steps were taken and a permit and meter were obtained. Appropriate fire marshalls approved, and the county engineers allowed the laying of  $7/10$  of a mile of pipe to a nearby fire hydrant serviced by the Cleveland Water Department. "We didn't think there would be a problem," Esposito explains.

The course intended to draw about

a million gallons or "whatever they permit us to take" over 30 to 40 days, Esposito says, drawing between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

However, testing the line in daylight was necessary to check for leaks and rate of gallons per hour they could draw. The course gained approval for this, and on the morning of the test got a call from a man claiming to be with the Cleveland Water Department approving the test, but not between 4 and 6 p.m.

The test began at noon and a film crew from WJKW-TV was there by 1 p.m. The story on the course aired that evening on the news, but didn't mention the legality of what the course was doing until two-thirds of the way through the feature.

Less than a half-hour after the film crew left, Hinckley Hills received another call from someone claiming to be with the water department, accusing the course of abusing its use of the meter and asking them to return it.

Doubting the person's word, she called the man she had been dealing with at the department and found the claims were false.

At the end of July, Hinckley Hills got approval to draw water 24 hours a day and it will continue to draw "until we reach our limits or they tell us to stop," Esposito says.



Harry Niemczyk



Karl Danneberger



John Street

tion, albeit a slow one. The disease, Niemczyk said, takes about three years of applications to become a serious control tool on grubs because it has to establish. Granular insecticides and "praying for

rain" were also suggested.

Concerns about water quality also arose. Shane noted there was a "potential for water quality to drop with pesticides from adjacent farmland running into streams" after a significant rainfall. Shane recommended sampling water sources after rainfall for quality readings.

A couple other recommendations coming out of the meeting were to use slow release fertilizers and to not broadcast-apply herbicides to control clover that was popping up at the time. "But why would you want to kill it?" Esposito quipped. "It's the only thing that's green."

understated.

The best estimates at the time were that 20 to 25 percent of the lawn turf around the state was "dead with no recovery," Street said. "If these conditions continue through July and August, it's anybody's guess what will happen." (They didn't.)

Concerns on how the drought would affect other areas such as pest management also cropped up. Sweda's browned-out roughs were infested with Japanese beetles. With no irrigation to water in insecticides, he was looking for a solution.

Niemczyk, an entomologist, suggested milky spore disease as a solu-

## Dobie receives McLaren Award

Frank Dobie has received the Mal McLaren Award from the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association, the oldest such group in the country.

The award, named in honor of the late superintendent of Canterbury and Oakwood Country Clubs and 1952 GCSAA president, was established 10 years ago by Don Sweda, superintendent at Beechmont Country Club, and his brother George, the golf writer for the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*. McLaren was an innovator in his 50



years as a superintendent, helping to advance the profession and its technology from the primitive toward today's standards. He served as a mentor to both Swedas when they worked summers at Oakwood, inspiring them to their chosen careers.

Dobie has been a superintendent nearly 30 years. He is the Sharon (Ohio) Golf Club's first and only superintendent and general manager, since 1964.

A product of Penn State's turf program, Dobie is active in numerous industry groups, and is at least partially responsible for the growth of the Musser Tournament and its beneficiary, the Musser Turf Foundation, of which he is the president.

Because of the special nature of the Swedas' relationship with McLaren and his tremendous contributions to the industry, they sought to keep the award from being an annual award, making it all the more meaningful.

The first—and only other—recipient was John Spodnik of Westfield Country Club in 1980.

"My first reaction is it's an honor to be given an award from my peers," Dobie said. "It's a reminder of people like John Spodnik, Mal McLaren, Bob Williams and Colin Smith and what they did for me when I was starting out: advice, counsel; there were no secrets.

"They're not the minority either.

*continued on page 14*



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The majority of the industry is like that. I wanted to be like that, taking what I've been given and returning it to the industry; the time, efforts and skills so others can benefit. It's necessary for the continued growth and *esprit de corps* we have.

"I always viewed Mal as a groundbreaker," Dobie recalled. "That's the kind of environment that's been in this area for years," dating back to the early years of the local and national association, with such figures as Col. John Morley, president of GCSAA for the first six years of its existence.

"Whatever I've done here in the area," Dobie explained, "is consistent with what's been done here for 50 years. This award represents many people that are just as deserving. This is an acknowledgment of everybody."

CONFERENCES

Here comes the Landscape Expo!

Thousands of landscape professionals will convene in the Nashville (Tenn.) Convention Center on the weekend of Oct. 22-24 to attend the third annual Landscape Exposition. Billed as "the green industry's most far-reaching



Landscape Exposition

event," the Landscape Expo will offer an informative, economical and enjoyable weekend experience for professionals from landscape and grounds care facilities.

The Landscape Expo exhibit floor will be packed with displays of the latest in lawn care products, chemicals, fertilizers, seed, irrigation systems, power equipment, accessories and more. Among the major manufacturers to be represented are: Cushman, Deere, Yamaha, Toyota, Snapper, Grasshopper, Monsanto, HMC, Chevron, Northrup King, Rinco, Buckner Irrigation, Elanco, Hoechst-Roussel, Hydra Mac, Befco and Teledyne Total Power.

"The Landscape Expo brings the many diverse groups within the landscape industry together under one roof," says show manager Becky Lerew, "giving them the opportunity to meet with their peers and also see the newest and most advanced products and equipment.

"Plus, the Landscape Expo seminars offer them the chance to update

their business management skills and learn of new solutions to technical and regulatory problems that face the entire industry."

The Expo has been carefully planned to be convenient to attend. The fall timing means that they can afford to spend a few days away from their businesses, and are ready to plan purchases for the coming season. The show's weekend dates make it easy to bring the family and combine business with pleasure. Nashville is a terrific spot for family entertainment, with attractions that include the Grand Ole Opry and Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, shopping, dining and nightlife.

Special discount coupons will be mailed to everyone who pre-registers for the Expo, and special in-hall entertainment, prizes and giveaways will add excitement to the show.

The Convention Center is easily accessible from major highways. Attendees can choose from a wide variety of accommodations ranging from first-class hotels to KOA Campgrounds. Specially discounted travel hotel rates are available through Travel Planners, the official travel agency of the Landscape Exposition.

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| Tinted glass           | Standard         | Optional        | N/A             | N/A             | Optional            |
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To find out even more ways Mazda outperforms the competition, contact: Fleet Department, Mazda Motor of America, Inc. 7755 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, CA 92718. Or call (714) 727-1990.

\*J.D. Power & Associates 1986 and 1987 Compact Truck CSI and 1988 Light-Duty Truck CSI customer satisfaction with product quality and dealer service. \*\*See your Mazda Dealer for limited-warranty information. †Comparisons with other makes based upon available competitive data.



annual Landscape Expo, phone Lerew or Mary Sue Christoffers at (203) 853-0400 or write c/o Edgell Expositions, 50 Washington St., Norwalk, CT 06854.

**INDUSTRY**

**Pesticide groups solve problem—together**

A pro-pesticide and an anti-pesticide group recently set a precedent by actually sitting down and talking to each other instead of facing off against one

another. Involved were members of the Professional Pesticide Users of Connecticut and the Connecticut Clean Water Coalition, an environmental group.

The result of their meetings, which covered the concerns and interests of both sides, was a jointly-sponsored bill which was passed by state legislature.

Two sections of the bill specifically affect pesticide application.

First, a central registry will be created for people wanting prior notification of applications within 100 yards of abutting property.

Secondly, section 1(c) states: "Any person making an outdoor application of a pesticide...shall at the time of such application post a sign notifying the public of the application." Yes, that means homeowners, too.

This inclusion seems partially a result of a study conducted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on the amount of pesticides applied and by whom. The study, published last October, notes that while agriculture uses about 33 percent and industrial, commercial and government use about 6 percent, homeowners account for 61 percent of the pesticides applied in the state.

It should be noted that the Connecticut EPA puts that figure at 26 percent for homeowners and the U.S. EPA puts it at 7 percent for "home and garden."

The co-chairperson of the state general assembly, Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, lauded the unity by presenting the bill's sponsors with a bottle of champagne at the public hearing.

**NATIVES**

**Native wildflowers a way to save \$\$\$**

A study of wildflower mixtures on the market by the National Wildflower Research Center concluded that native species in the mixtures were more successful than non-natives.

"One of the most significant results is that in the first year the majority of species that flower successfully are indigenous," the study states. "They out-perform non-natives by a three-to-one ratio."

The trend continues in the second year as well, and by the third year "100 percent of the species that flower are indigenous," the study concluded.

Natives are better adapted to environmental, climate and soil conditions in a given area and usually survive with little or no maintenance once established. Selecting mixtures containing higher ratios of natives, though more expensive initially, will save on irrigation and maintenance costs in the long term.

**INDUSTRY**

**Consultant warns of anti-chemical warfare**

Industry consultant Alan Caruba warned attendees of the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association mid-year meeting of a "deluge of heavily financed, sophisticated environmentalist propaganda."

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## NEWS from page 16

Speaking to the CSMA Pesticide Division, Caruba noted that pest control industries "produce chemicals which protect billions of dollars of crops, billions of dollars of property and millions of Americans from (numerous) diseases and health threats. But you're not telling the public that."

Caruba criticized chemical manufacturers for not taking on the "toxic terrorists" trying to eliminate many of the chemical tools the industry employs. "You're going to fail in your battle with the toxic terrorists," he warned. "When will the pesticide manufacturers effectively begin to respond with a program of public information, education and relations of its own?"

## INDUSTRY

### Bridging the Pacific helps business at Jacklin and Briggs

Doing business in the Far East is becoming *de rigeur* with two companies serving the green industry—Jacklin Seed and Briggs & Stratton.

A four-person delegation from the People's Republic of China toured seed production facilities at Post Falls, Idaho-based Jacklin Seed earlier this year.

The Chinese are looking for ways to best spend \$47 million on seed conditioning equipment and improved seed during the next 20 years.

Because of serious erosion problems, the People's Republic is in need of reclamation seed to stabilize soils. Jacklin Seed made arrangements to test turfgrass and reclamation seed in six locations in China next year.

International marketing is not new to Jacklin. The seed company has been working with China for about four years and also exports seed to about 25 countries.

Briggs & Stratton is making inroads into the huge Chinese market by developing a gasoline engine-powered mini-car.

According to the company, the car was developed in response to China's seventh "Five Year National Plan." The company introduced the car at the International Internal Combustion Engine Expo in Shanghai, April 7-12.

A 16 hp Model 32 single-cylinder cast-iron engine powers the car, which features a French-made Gateau body. The type of engine previously was used in tractors and mowing equipment.

B&S and Chongqing Puling Machinery Works will manufacture the

*continued on page 21*



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