

## Picking a turfgrass is a key

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Turfgrass researchers at the University of California Riverside are advocating a new philosophy in selecting and irrigating turf that will significantly increase water conservation and reduce irrigation costs.

Based on the results of a four-year study published in a recent issue of *California Agriculture*, UCR investigators say that it is now an obsolete practice to select one grass and one irrigation schedule for an entire area, such as a golf course, park or home lawn.

"In areas receiving little or no wear, there is no need for irrigation regimes that support recuperative ability from heavy foot traffic," observes Dr. Vic Gibeault.



### Musser receives promo donation

CLEVELAND — The H.B. Musser International Turfgrass Foundation recently received a donation from Lesco, Inc. that represented the latter's redemption of Certified Blue Tags through Turf-Seed Inc.'s Blue Tag promotion program. Above, Lesco vice chairman Robert Burkhardt (left) presents MITF president Frank Dobie with a check for the donation. Dobie is superintendent at The Sharon Club in Sharon Center, Ohio.

"We have shown that irrigation water can drop to 20 percent of normal for these grasses, and they still look green, have a uniform appearance and give adequate

ground cover in non-use areas.

To conserve water, turf types and irrigation schedules should vary and be determined by use patterns.

One half of the 1.4 million acres of turf used on golf courses, parks and home lawns must be maintained with optimum irrigation water for grass to recuperate from wear and tear. The other 50 percent of the turf receives minimal foot traffic because it is located near clubhouses, along fairways or in remote places of the park or lawn.

This is the first time researchers have identified which grasses respond well to severe irrigation cut-backs in California.

Bermudagrasses and seashore pasaplum performed best in the UCR study. Two species of saltbrush, buffalograss, and two varieties of Phalaris also gave comparatively good cover and quality under irrigation stress in low-traffic areas.

"Most people just understand the amenity value of turf," Gibeault continues.

Water scarcity in California led to the search for attractive grasses with low water needs. □

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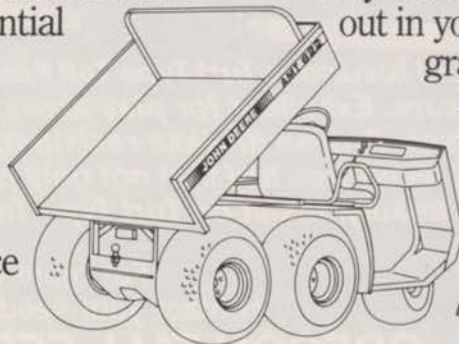
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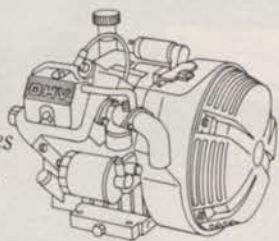






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## ATHLETIC TURF

### Baseball fields in U.S., Canada cited by STMA

HOUSTON — The Baseball Diamond of the Year awards were announced earlier this year with ballparks in Canada, Florida and Minnesota winning top honors.

The Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA's) professional baseball award was given to Mike Regan, head groundskeeper at Labatt Park, home of the London (Ontario, Canada) Tigers of the Class AA Eastern League.

The college baseball award was presented to Jerry Brown, head athletic groundskeeper for Barry University's Buccaneer Field in Miami Shores, Fla.

The winning diamond for schools, municipalities and parks is Legion Field in Marshall, Minn. The award was presented to Mark Altman, facility consultant to

the Marshall Parks and Recreation Department.

Four major league groundskeepers (one for each major league division) served as judges: Jim Anglea of the Texas Rangers, Pete Flynn of the New York Mets, Harry Gill of the Milwaukee Brewers and Steve Wightman of the San Diego Padres.

The awards were presented at the annual meeting of the STMA here. They are given each year on the basis of excellence in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional-quality baseball facilities. Co-sponsors are Beam Clay, the STMA and *Golf & Sports Turf* magazine. □

## LITERATURE

### Service guru has new book

MINNEAPOLIS, Mn. — Service guru Ron Zemke, who was keynote speaker at the 1988 Professional Lawn Care Association of America conference in

New Orleans, has a new book on the market.

Zemke, author of *Service America!*, has written *Service Wisdom*, a collection of his writings designed to be a service resource. He and Dick Schaaf also wrote *The Service Edge: 101 Companies that Profit from Customer Care*, which builds on his original work.

For more information on any of the publications, contact Zemke's company, Performance Research Associates, at (612) 338-8523 or New American Library Books at (212) 397-8132. □

## CONFERENCES

### Turf course to be offered in Davis

DAVIS, Calif. — "Turfgrass Management for Professionals," focusing on current techniques and research results, will be held here April 12-13. The course is sponsored by the University of California Extension-Davis. Ten hours of pest control advisors (PCA)

and 1.5 hours of certified golf course superintendents courses have been applied for.

The curriculum should be of interest to golf course superintendents, park and recreation site managers, horticultural consultants, pest control advisors and other professional turf and landscape managers.

To receive program details, write or call University Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616; (916) 757-8899. □

### Next month:

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## CONVENTIONS

### Barbara Mandrell to visit Expo '90

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Country rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Mandrell, one of the nation's most popular and dynamic performers, will entertain visitors to the International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo here this summer.

Mandrell has received nine People's Choice Awards, including six consecutive as "Favorite All-Around Female Entertainer." The petite songstress is a show business veteran of 29 years with such hits as "Midnight Oil" and "If Loving You Is Wrong (I Don't Want to Be Right)."

Her concert is scheduled for Monday, July 30 at the Commonwealth Convention Center in downtown Louisville. The "Expo Evening Starring Barbara Mandrell" will include a buffet dinner. Cash bars will open



Barbara Mandrell

at 6 p.m. and Mandrell will perform at 8 p.m. Free transportation will be provided between several convention hotels and the dinner show.

Tickets cost \$30 each for dinner and the show. They may be ordered through the Expo advance registration brochure, which will be available in April by calling (800) 558-8767.

The ILPGE Expo '90 for dealers, distributors and others involved in the landscape industry will be held July 29-31. □

## ATHLETIC TURF

### Penn State coach gives turf managers new name

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. — Athletic turf managers in search of a title need look no further, thanks to retired Penn State University soccer coach Walter Bahr.

Bahr, father of two National Football League placekickers, surveyed attendees at the Eastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference, asking what to call the audience. He decided on "SOLMAD," the acronym for "Superintendent Of Landscape Management And Development."

"I always thought you just had a guy out there who cuts the grass that you called 'Charlie' or something like that," he admitted.

Bahr offered a coach's perspective on turf management, saying that his first choice of surface as a coach and player is natural turf. His least favorite surface is Astro turf.

"My objection to Astro turf is that it always hurt. Even to walk on it hurt you," said Bahr. "When we used to have to play a game on Astro turf we never practiced on it the day before because you'd always wind up getting a couple of kids hurt before a game."

Bahr said he agrees totally with former Philadelphia Phillies slugger Richie Allen who quipped, "If horses won't eat it, I don't want to play on it."

Bahr said he'd rather have a dirt field void of grass than to play on the synthetic Astro turf surface. "So anything a 'SOLMAD' does to take care of the field is okay with me."

### Santa Anita turf too fast?

The new turf track recently installed at the Santa Anita race track is causing consternation among managers there. The hybrid Bermuda grass with an interlocking mesh element is resulting in faster times. Should records posted on the new track replace old records, or be given a new category? Ray Rogers, general manager for the Oak Tree group of horses, trainer Bruce Headley and racing expert Jim Quinn are in favor of new categories. Cliff Goodrich, president of Santa Anita, is not. Goodrich says the track has been changed before, and new times were always compared with existing times. Jockeys say the horses don't seem to get as tired on the new turf.

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