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Picture perfect means the course looks so inviting that those viewing it can see themselves playing on it—and may make plans to do so. (The Dunes Course at LaQuinta Golf and Tennis Resort, LaQuinta, Calif.)

MEDIA from page 50

to make the proper adjustments.

Michael J. Tellier, Golf Course Superintendent of the Dunes and Mountain Courses of the LaQuinta Golf Club, LaQuinta, Calif., whose Dunes Course served as a venue for the John Deere Tournament, also is skilled in working with the media. He adds these suggestions on course preparation:

"Communication is vital," says Tellier. "The advance production staff for television coverage usually comes to the facility two months prior to the event. For annual events, we start preparing for the coming year the day after the current event ends."

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The superintendent is becoming more recognized as a factor in golf course success by the media, especially over the last five years, according to Tellier.

Go over the course with media advance personnel, looking for eyesores. "See what has to be done and develop a priority list, tackling the major problems first; then the minor ones," Lewis says.

Tellier says you should take this opportunity to determine what camera angles they wish to use; to mark areas for towers; to determine special angle shots, etc. Decide if trees must be trimmed for sight lines to make sure the shots will be "clean."

"View the course from the camera's perspective," Lewis recommends. "Know exactly what will be seen in shots from each position. How will normal care procedures affect the camera's picture?"

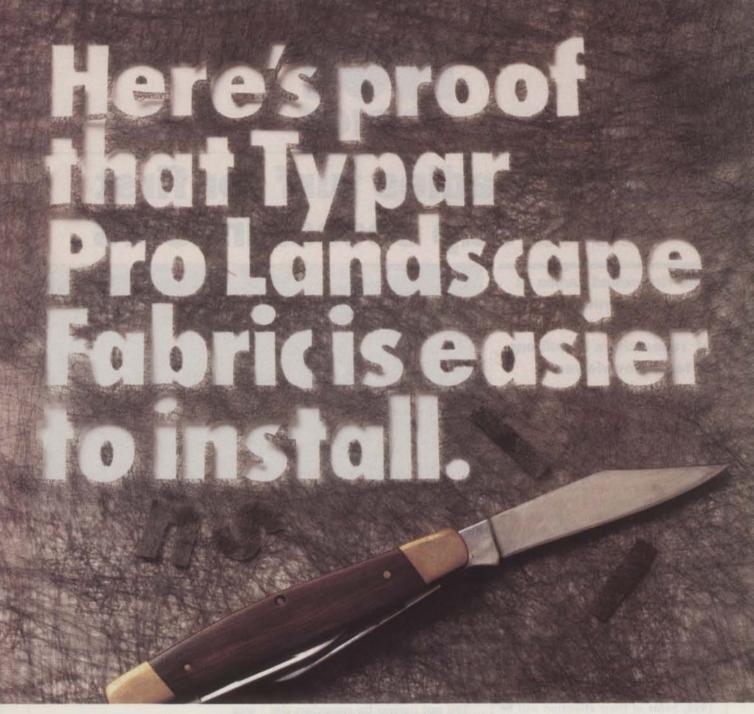
There's always give-and-take with media coverage. For example, there may be some discussion as to where to set up the announcing booth. The area needs to provide a good scenic angle, yet be out of play. It may be necessary to change a location choice to accommodate irrigation or computer lines.

"Keep an open mind," Lewis says.

The superintendent is becoming more recognized as a factor in golf course success by the media, especially over the last five years, according to Tellier: "Commentators like to relay information on course care during telecasts, so expect them to ask you questions to fill in their background material." They want details so that people who know the game of golf will understand why certain things look certain ways.

Both superintendents agree that something always comes up, but you can handle it if you plan ahead, schedule wisely, anticipate problems, work hard and follow up thoroughly. Then enjoy. Good media attention attracts new golfers to your course.

--Steve Trusty is President of Trusty & Associates, which provides consulting services to the horticultural trade. Bob Tracinski is manager of public relations for the John Deere Company in Raleigh, N.C.



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HOT

MSU readies turf for first World Cup soccer indoors

Four first-round games at Pontiac Silverdome in 1994 will showcase the efforts of researchers to millions of television viewers.

EAST LANSING, Mich.—A team of Michigan State University researchers is promising world-class playing conditions for the World Cup soccer games scheduled for Pontiac, Mich., in 1994.

That means only one thing to FIFA, the tournament's governing body—turfgrass. Real, living, growing turfgrass. FIFA reportedly wouldn't have agreed to the Silverdome site without the guarantee of a real turfgrass playing surface.

This presents a huge challenge to the MSU team headed by Dr. John "Trey" Rogers and John C. Stier. The near-perfect turfgrass field they're promising will be *inside* the Silverdome.

The World Cup is a global competition. Several hundred million people worldwide will follow every kick, every scoring attempt of the four first-round games at the Detroit-area site June 17-July 17, 1994. Some of their attention will be focused on the condition of the playing field, since these will be the first-ever World Cup games played indoors.

Rogers and research assistant Stier updated MSU's World Cup involvement last November to about 30 media representatives.

The group crammed into MSU's "Silverdome West," a 6,500-sq.-ft, quonset structure on the MSU campus about 1 1/2 hours west of the real Silverdome. Its



About 2,000 of these hexagonal turfgrass containers will be fitted together to make World Cup soccer field inside the Pontiac Silverdome. MSU's 'Silverdome West' in the background.

dome is covered with the same fiberglass material and the same forced-air suspension system as the Silverdome.

Inside MSU's structure, banks of highintensity lights illuminate dozens of 4x4foot wooden boxes. The turfgrass in each box is growing under slightly different conditions—moisture, fertilizers, plant growth regulators, etc.

This past summer the researchers also tended and observed test plots inside the real Silverdome.

"We deliberately stressed the grass to see what it would take," says Rogers. "And it looked bad when the trials were over. But it was a successful effort."

Actually, the turfgrass will be inside the Silverdome only for one exhibition game in 1993, and, again, for the four games over nearly two weeks in June-July 1994. Researchers are confident the turfgrass field will fare well in the exhibition game.

It *has* to perform well for the World Cup, Rogers and Stier say.

The turfgrass is being grown this winter in California by Pacific Sod. It is a mixture of 85 percent Kentucky bluegrass and 15 percent perennial ryegrass—three varieties of both, two of each chosen for wear tolerance, and one of each for shade tolerance.

In April the sod will be cut, rolled and shipped by truck to Michigan where it will be transplanted into hexagonal metal boxes filled with six inches of topsoil (8 parts sand, one part native sandy loam and one part Michigan peat). This work will take place in Pontiac.

Each hexagonal box is seven feet across and weighs 3,000 lbs. It will take 2,000 of them, plus some triangular and trapedzoidal boxes, to cover the Silverdome's

ELSEWHERE

'Don't call them crazy,' says Senator, page 56 Publication made for consuming public, page 56

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John 'Trey' Rogers: MSU staff learning how to keep turfgrass healthy inside the dome.

John C. Stier: By June 1994 the turfgrass should be rooted to bottom of metal containers.

asphalt floor. They will be moved into the Silverdome a few days before next summer's exhibition game, then removed after the exhibition game to be reassembled and used as an outdoor athletic field.

"This will give the turfgrass an opportunity to mature," says Stier. "By the time the field is needed in 1994, the roots of the turfgrass should be to the bottom of the containers."

Just prior to the summer 1994 World

Cup, the field goes inside again.

The top of each box is slightly wider than the bottom, and the sides of the boxes are made in two pieces with the upper pieces being removed as the boxes are fit together. The boxes will fit together tightly with at least three inches of soil between the field's surface and any metal edges.

"We will look at the possibility of adding soil in the seams but we don't think it will be necessary," says Rogers. The MSU staff is confident its work should add significantly to what's known about growing turfgrass in the shade.

"One possibility would be for shady fairways and greens," says Rogers. "A number of golf courses are already using plant growth regulators on problem areas. But it's all being done on a 'best guess' basis. We think our research should provide some answers as to how much to use under various conditions."

Also, it's likely researchers will come up with a list of recommendations for home lawn care under shady conditions.

Beyond that, additional work on finding materials that will allow much more sunlight (the Silverdome roof only lets in 10 percent of the available sunlight) may hasten the day when permanent indoor turfgrass surfaces can be maintained. This would allow the playing of outdoor sports on a year-around basis in northern states.

"We think we have a good, sound game plan," says Rogers, "But we have a lot of research to do."

-Ron Hall

Rep. Charles Stenholm: don't call them crazy

INDIANAPOLIS—U.S. Rep Charles Stenholm (D-Texas) says it's high time that pesticide-using industries and their critics, the so-called environmentalists, rediscover the seemingly lost art of give and take.

"Compromise is not a four-letter word," Stenholm told about 200 LCOs at PLCAA's annual conference here this past November. He asked the audience not to brand anti-pesticide critics as extremists. "When we say one of them is crazy, they say we're crazy," said Stenholm.

Instead, Stenholm said LCOs should "continually" put the facts about the products they use and the good things they do in front of their customers and, even, Congress. He urged the LCOs to maximize the impact of these facts by building coalitions with other pesticide-using industries, particularly agriculture.

"We have to show the public we can deal with their concerns in a very rational way," said Stenholm.

He admitted that neither lawn care nor agriculture has had much success in defending its use of pesticides. And that neither, by itself, carries a whole lot of



Rep. Stenholm tells LCOs to get to know 110 new members of Congress.

political clout.

But, he pointed out, there are indications that more and more working people are turning away from extreme environmental positions. They're afraid their jobs will be affected by even stricter regulations, he said.

-Ron Hall

Communicating benefits to your customer list

WASHINGTON—"Pesticides in Your Environment," a 16-page, full-color publication, explains to the public the health, safety and environmental benefits provided by the specialty pesticides you are applying.

It talks to consumers in language they can understand and apply when making decisions about specialty pesticide use. For instance:

Healthy trees can add up to 20 percent to the value of a home.

Before widespread mosquito control, 4,000 Americans a year died of malaria.

The publication is being sold to the golf/landscape market through RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), which is depending on golf course superintendents, landscape contractors and lawn care operators to deliver it to the consuming public.

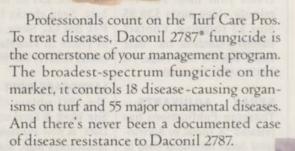
For order forms or more information about the publication, contact RISE, 1155 15th St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005; phone (202) 872-3860; fax (202) 463-0474.

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Useful literature and videos for LM readers

WE ARE NOT DOOMED ... For anyone who suspects he's not being told the whole story regarding so-called "global warming" (and he's right). there's "Sound and Fury-The Science and Politics of Global Warming," by Dr. Patrick J. Michaels. The author-an associate professor in environmental sciences at the University of Virginiashows that the warming of the earth over the last century has been far less than the doom merchants and agenda-toting politicians such as Al Gore would have us believe. Any warming has been a result of natural climatic processes. and is beneficial, and Michaels backs it up with facts. Distributed by the National Book Network: \$21.95 hardcover; \$\$11.95 for paperback. Contact the Cato Institute, (800) 767-1241.

MADE IN THE SHADE... David E. Benner, professor of ornamental horticulture at Delaware Valley College, reveals his techniques and low-maintenance solutions for a shade garden and teaches, in a step-by-step video, how to create your own. The 45minute video costs \$39.95 plus \$3 shipping. Contact Benner's Gardens, Inc., Star Route Box 86, New Hope, PA 18938; (800) 753-4660.

SPRAY ADJUVANTS Thomson Publications has released "A Guide to Agricultural Spray Adjuvants Used in the U.S." by Lori Thomson Harvey. In its fourth edition, this book contains most spray adjuvants plus 80 new products on the market. Chapters are on spreaders/stickers/buffers, penetrants, drift control agents, foam markets, soil wetting agents and much more. The book sells for \$17.50 plus tax. For ordering information, contact Thomson Publications, P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, CA 93791; or phone (209) 435-2163; or fax (209) 435-8319.

TREES AND THE LAW ... "Arboriculture and the Law" by Victor D. Merullo and Michael J. Valentine is now available through the International Society of Arboriculture. It applies to the rights and duties of landowners, municipalities, commercial and consulting arborists and others involved in tree care. The appendices include a checklist and definitions of legal terms. To order, send \$45 (ISA non-member) or \$30 (ISA member) to ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874. Visa and MasterCard orders can be phoned to (217) 355-9516.

PHC SYSTEM...The ISA has also published "Plant Health Care Management System," a program to help arborists examine and re-think current methods and practices, and promote a proactive holistic approach to plant care that focuses on preventive maintenance. Price is \$40 for ISA members, \$55 for non-members. Send checks to ISA at P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874 or phone in Visa/MasterCard orders to (217) 355-9516.

LANDSCAPE COST DATA ... The 1993 edition of "Means Site Work & Land-scape Cost Data" is now available to help landscapers plan, budget and estimate with 100 percent confidence. It contains a separate unit price section, plus 57 tables of assemblies costs with more than 3000 supporting line items. To order, send check or money order for \$79.95 plus 4.5% shipping and handling to: R.S. Means Co., P.O. Box 800, Kingston, MA 02364. To order by phone

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PESTICIDE GUIDE...Gresham Trade Directories is offering a 1,000-page trade directory, "Federally Registered Pesticides," which lists 20,000 products, plus a manufacturer's

index. Cost is \$175 plus \$8 shipping and handling. Write Gresham Trade Directories, 942 Military St., Port Huron, MI 48060, or phone (313) 985-5028, or fax (313) 985-5190.

WAGES AND BENEFITS...The 1992 Associated Landscape Contractors of America wage

and benefit study is now available. It answers: How much will it take to hire a supervisor with a hort degree and five years' experience? What is the range of typical wages paid for similar talent in similar positions? What is the entry level wage for a salesperson with great potential but little or no

experience? Copies are \$25 each for ALCA members, \$45 for non-members. Order by mail: ALCA, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091. Order by phone: (703) 620-6363 or (800) 295-2522. Order by fax: (703) 620-6365.



JANUARY

15-16: WinterGreen '93, Georgia International Convention & Trade Center, College Park, Ga. Phone: (706) 492-4664.

16: American Association of Nurserymen Tree Evaluation Seminar, Hyatt Regency Chicago (III.). Phone: (202) 789-2900.

17-19: Empire State Tree Conference, Suffern (N.Y.) Holiday Inn. Phone: (518) 783-1322.

18: Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Mechanics Seminar, Brookstone Golf & Country Club, Acworth, Ga. Phone: (706) 769-4076.

18-21: Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference & Trade Show, Valley Forge (Pa.) Convention Center. Phone: (814) 863-3475.

18-21: Virginia Turf & Landscape Conference and Trade Show, Richmond (Va.) Centre/Richmond Marriott. Phone (804) 340-3473.

19: Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association Meeting, Des Moines (Ia.) Convention Center. Phone: (515) 792-6433.

20: Bergen County (N.J.) Landscape Contractors Association Swap Meet, Shemin Nursery, Mahwah, N.J. Phone: (201) 934-0716.

20-23: National Tropical Foliage Short Course, Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) Convention Center. Phone: (407) 886-1036.

21-23: Idaho Horticulture Convention & Trade Show, Boise (Ida.) Centre on the Grove. Phone: (800) 462-4769.

21-23: Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition (TPIE), Ft. Lauderdale (Fla.) Convention Center. Phone: (407) 345-8137.

21-23: Turfgrass Management/Park Maintenance Training School, Albany (N.Y.) Omni Hotel. Phone: (518) 463-1232. **25-28:** Professional Horticulture Conference of Virginia, The Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Va. Phone (804) 523-4734.

25-29: Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Va. Phone: (703) 231-8000.

27: Good Crops², Winter Seminar and Mini-Trade Show, Sarasota (Fla.) Hyatt Hotel. Phone: (407) 345-8137.

27-28: California Association of Nurserymen Legislative Days, Sacramento, Calif. Phone: (800) 748-6214.

27-29: Wyoming Groundskeepers and Growers Association Conference & Trade Show, Casper (Wyo.) Events Center. Phone: (307) 637-7060 or (307) 265-1870.

28: Connecticut Tree Protective Association Annual Meeting, Aqua-Turf, Plantsville, Conn. Phone: (203) 257-8971.

28-29: Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Planting Design School Course I, Holiday Inn South, Lansing, Mich. Phone: (517) 487-1282.

31-Feb. 3: Associated Landscape Contractors of America Executive Forum, Sheraton Tucson (Ariz.) El Conquistador Hotel. Phone: (703) 620-6363.

31-Feb. 2: The Fertilizer Institute Annual Meeting, New Orleans, La. Phone: (202) 675-8250.

FEBRUARY

1-5: National Golf Course Owners Association Annual Conference, Disney Yacht and Beach Club, Orlando, Fla. Phone: (803) 577-5239.

1-5: Louisiana Turfgrass Short Course, Burden Research Conference Center, Baton Rouge, La. Phone: (504) 388-2158.

3: Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Wetland Restoration Seminar, East Lansing, Mich. Phone: (517) 487-1282.

3-4: Ohio State University Athletic

Field Short Course, Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, Ohio. Phone: (614) 292-7457.

3-4: New England Grows, Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Mass. Phone: (617) 964-2366.

3-5: Mid-America Green Industry Convention, Hilton Plaza Inn, Kansas City, Mo. Phone: (816) 765-7616.

3-5: American Sod Producers Association Midwinter Conference & Exposition, Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, La. Phone: (708) 705-9898.

4-7: National Landscape Association's Management Clinic, The Galt House East, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (202) 789-2900.

6-9: Chelsea America Flower Show, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Phone: (310) 648-6602.

9: Target Specialty Products Annual Seminar & Exhibit, Mesa (Ariz.) Convention Center. Phone: (310) 865-9541.

9-10: Tree and Shrub Chemical Usage Seminar, Marion County Extension Office, Indianapolis, Ind. Phone: (317) 846-7020.

9-13: National Arborists Association Annual Meeting & Conference, St. Petersburg, Fla. Phone: (800) 733-2622.

10-11: Garden State Nursery & Landscape Conference and Trade Show, Garden State Convention & Exhibit Center, Somerset, N.J. Phone: (609) 737-0890.

11: Connecticut Turf & Landscape Conference, Hartford (Conn.) Civic Center. Phone: (203) 791-8615.

11-12: Target Specialty Products Annual Seminar & Exhibit, Sequoia Athletic Club, Buena Park, Calif. Phone: (310) 865-9541.

12-14: National Golf, Tennis & Resort Expo, D.C. Armory, Washington, D.C. Phone: (603) 536-4718.

15: Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Spray Technician Seminar, The Standard Club, Duluth, Ga. Phone: (706) 769-4076.