OHIO STATE BEGINS CONVERSION TO GRASS

The artificial turf and pad at Ohio Stadium were rolled up in November as Ohio State University began to convert its field to a Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) system. This May, thousands of Ohio State students will walk across Kentucky bluegrass to receive their diplomas during graduation ceremonies at the stadium.

Turf Services, Inc., of Spring Lake, MI, will install the new sand-based field. The company was the contractor for the PAT systems at the University of Iowa's Kinnick Stadium and Soldier Field in Chicago. The Buckeyes will be the third Big Ten Conference team to convert to natural turf. The recent addition of Pennsylvania State University to the Big Ten brings the total of natural turf fields in the conference to four.

Ohio State is constructing three new fields on campus to handle many of the intramural sports previously played at Ohio Stadium. The decision to return the stadium to natural turf hinged on finding other fields for the university's busy athletic department.

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, which has been a major proponent of converting the stadium to natural turf, will donate the sod for the stadium field. The school decided not to include a field heating system.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FUNDS TURF SURVEY

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (PTC) has donated money to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service for a turfgrass survey of the state. The report, which is due out by this summer, will be the first survey of turforass facilities in the state since 1966.

The Council is encouraging everyone who receives a questionnaire to fill it out promptly and accurately. PTC hopes this data will be helpful in obtaining new services for the turfgrass industry in the state.

"Our industry has grown and diversified substantially since 1966." stated outgoing PTC President Joseph Baidy. "Many guestions have been asked concerning the size of the turfgrass industry in Pennsylvania, and for the past 15 years we have been severely limited as to how we can respond. The Council feels very strongly that by funding most of this survey we can provide an important and necessary service to the industry."

RAIN BIRD EXPANDS **GOLF DIVISION**

As the golf boom enters the 1990s, the Golf Division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc. has expanded to meet the growing needs of golf course architects, irrigation consultants, contractors, and golf course superintendents.

Ed Shoemaker has been promoted to the postion of vice president/general manager. He will oversee the sales, marketing, engineering, and manufacturing operation for the Golf Division. Shoemaker brings more than 30 years of irrigation and business experience to his new post.

The company's home office in Glendora. CA. has brought Steve Christie on board as its new director of sales and marketing. Christie will draw on his 15 years of golf course and turf irrigation experience to direct the efforts of Rain Bird's newly expanded field sales and service staff.

The Golf Division has also established six new field sales and service positions. Rod McWhirter has been appointed national golf specification manager and has begun working directly with golf course architects, designers, and irrigation consultants acrosss the United States. Rain Bird has also added Alan Clark, Shawn Connors, Dave Ferron, and Jim Schumacher as golf sales managers, with sales responsibilities in the Northeast, Southwest, Northwest/Rocky Mountains, and Southeast regions, respectively.

The Golf Division has also created a golf service manager postion to provide service support in the Northeast/Atlantic Seaboard area.



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