



John Secor, left, superintendent of Key Royale Club, Holmes Beach, FL, sits beside his Greens Committee chairman, Tom Burke, in the club's new Cushman Turf-Truckster®. Secor won the unit in a drawing sponsored by BASF Professional Turf & Ornamental Group at this year's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show.

John Deere expands irrigation services

Deere & Company has acquired Richton International Corp. and plans to combine that company's irrigation equipment business-Century Supply-with the recently purchased McGinnis Farms to form "John Deere Landscapes" and offer a full line of products and services to irrigation and landscape professionals.

"In addition to significantly expanding our ability to serve irrigation customers, Century brings us more than 160 new locations and a strong team of people," said John Jenkins, president of Deere's Worldwide Commercial and Consumer Equipment Div.

Forbes has named Richton as one of the "200 Best Small Companies in the U.S." for 3 consecutive years.

Dow buys Rohm and Haas's ag chemical biz

Dow AgroSciences LLC, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical Co., will inte-

grate Rohm and Haas's Agricultural Chemicals business into its own following the parent company's recent acquisition. Raj Gupta, chairman and CEO of Rohm and Haas, said the ag chemicals business and employees "will flourish more as part of a global firm with a stronger market presence."

Products acquired include the fungicide Dithane, the herbicide Goal, and the MAC family of insecticides, including Confirm, Mimic, and Intrepid (all brand names are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences LLC).

VA Tech's turf goes modular

Lane Stadium, home to the Virginia Tech Hokies, will have the ITM natural grass system installed in time for the 2001 football season, according to GreenTech, Inc., maker of the system. Giants Stadium in The Meadowlands, NJ, currently uses the ITM system.

GreenTech CEO Chris Scott said, "The system provides a flat playing surface, excellent drainage, an air

vacuum and blower system which may add heat in the future, remote monitoring, and control of field conditions and maintenance procedures. They also will be able to move sections of the field out of the way for next year's planned stadium expansion, and will have the possibility of hosting concerts at Lane Stadium during the fall without damaging the field."

(See related story, page 22.)

US technology, German "stihl"

Deere & Company has signed a technology sharing agreement with Andreas Stihl AG & Co., licensing Stihl to design, develop, and manufacture engines using a reduced-emission, 2-stroke engine fuel handling technology developed by John Deere. Stihl produces the #1-selling brand of chain saws and cutoff machines worldwide.

Deere is offering the fuel handling technology to other companies under license agreements, saying it may have applications beyond handheld equipment, such as walk-behind products, utility engines, snowmobiles, and motor scooters.

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Calendar of Events 2001 continued

Nell Cobb, (888) 268-9888 or sodfarm@c-gate.net.

November 10-13

12th annual Green Industry Expo (GIE), Tampa, FL. Contact: Professional Lawn Care Association of America, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068-2112; (770) 973-2019; fax (770) 578-6071; info@gieonline.com. Web site: <http://www.gieonline.com>.

November 13-15

New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) Turf and Grounds Exposition, Oncenter, Syracuse, NY. Contact: NYSTA, PO Box 612, Latham, NY 12110; (518) 783-1229/(800) 873-TURF (8873); fax (518) 783-1258; nysta@nysta.org. Web site: <http://www.nysta.org>.

December 3-6

35th Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. Contact: Kevin Thompson, OTF, PO Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388; (888) 683-3445 or (740) 452-4541, ext. 3151; fax (740) 452-2552. Web site: <http://www.ohioturfgrass.org>.

December 5-7

The Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association's (RMRTA) 48th annual Conference & Trade Show, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO. Contact: RMRTA, 9101 E. Kenyon Ave., Suite 3000, Denver, CO 80237-1805; (303) 770-2220; fax (303) 770-1812; rmrta@gwami.com.

December 11-13

New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 2001, Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Rutgers University, (732) 932-9375.

Watering just at the time of wilting will maximize the time between each watering to give the infrequent part of this general rule of thumb. When wilt occurs nearly all of the available water in the soil is gone and you need to supply enough water to completely fill the root zone again. Think of your root zone as a tank of water. Run the tank near empty and then fill it back up. Filling the tank or thoroughly watering the field is another way of expressing "deep" irrigation. Depending on the soil's water holding capacity, it may take 0.5 to 1.5 inches of water to replenish the moisture between these infrequent waterings.


Sand-based systems store less water so they need to be checked more often (daily), but not necessarily watered more often. Mild wilting on sand-based fields is a mandatory part of proper management to maximize rooting and traffic tolerance. Since water storage is minimal in sand systems, be prepared to water shortly after onset of wilt. A sand field showing mild wilt will usually need watering within 24 hours. If wilt is carried too far then tire tracking from equipment may injure turf. Tire traffic on severely wilted turf will


cause brown grass in the tire tracks a few days after driving on the wilted grass.

Black and gray discoloration of soils often referred to as "black layer," is a clear indication of excessive and improper irrigation. A nasal inspection of the soil will easily detect a stinky odor of methane gas from the anaerobic condition. This is a common problem on sand-based and native soil fields that are sodded and then over-watered in an attempt to make the sod grow-in faster.



This summer I met some great people at the Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Chapter's workshop in Knoxville. In addition to teaching me the greeting "hi-y'all," our host Bobby Campbell showed us his irrigation system on the Volunteers Stadium Field. As Bobby bent over and grunted to manually turn on one of the six big gun irrigation heads he imparted this bit of wisdom "over watering is not a problem for us since we have to walk across the field each time before we turn on the water." It's not the tool, but how you use it. Bye y'all.






THE IRON HORSE OF ALS

When Lou Gehrig's widow chose an organization to lead the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — the muscle-wasting disease that killed her husband — she selected the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Since the time she served as MDA national campaign chairman, the Association has consistently led the battle against ALS. MDA maintains the world's largest nongovernmental ALS research and patient services program.



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