DOT COM TAKE A LOOK

- The J.R. Simplot Co.'s Turf & Horticulture group has launched the APEX® website at www.apexfertilizer.com. Visit for product information as well as reference information such as conversion tables and area measurement instructions, and a list of distributors. Beyond tech bulletins and MSDS sheets for each product, the site includes release rates of each specific formulation with four different temperature variables, says the company.

- Visitors to www.seedolutions.com can find complete product information from the company that is comprised of five regional suppliers of forage, turfgrass, native grass and garden seed, erosion control products, and other seed-related products. Seed Solutions was created last year to provide each individual operation the chance to share marketing costs, inventory, and expertise.

- Agrotain International has launched www.stabilizednitrogen.com, devoted to UMAX® and UFLEX® stabilized-nitrogen technology, which the company says offers an environmentally friendly and economical alternative to slow-release nitrogen fertilizers. "Our landing page leads to separate paths tailored to golf, turf, or specialized applications, whatever your interest," says Alan Nees, vice president of turf and ornamental sales. "Stabilized-nitrogen fertilizers do not depend on seasonal microbial activity and can be applied year-round."

TURF SPEAKERS BUREAU GROWS

Chipco has expanded the offerings of its Speakers Bureau, which provides technical expertise for continuing education of turfgrass professionals. Nine Chipco field and technical development managers are now available to deliver presentations on the following topics: Replacing Organophosphates; Poo Anna Control; Summer Stress & Turf Quality; Fungicide Resistance Management; and Fire & Air Safety.

"We provide this service as a courtesy to organizations as a symbol of our commitment to the needs and concerns of turfgrass professionals," says Jim Fetter, Chipco Professional Products' marketing director. For more information, see www.aventischipco.com or call 1-800-438-5537.

DEERE IN TRANSAKLE BIZ

Deere & Company, Yanmar Diesel Engines and Kanazaki Kokyukoki Mfg. will form Transakle Manufacturing of America Corp. to build tractor and utility vehicle transaxles. The new company will build its headquarters and manufacturing facility on 40 acres in the Waterford Business Industrial Park in Rock Hill, SC, with production scheduled to begin in September 2003.

A transaxle is a unit that consists of a combination transmission and axles used in small tractors and UVs; the new plant will provide these for Deere's Gator® UV and compact utility tractors.

HOW CAT STUFF WORKS

HowStuffWorks.com has added four sections with the help of Caterpillar, Inc.: How Caterpillar Skid Steer Loaders Work; How Caterpillar Backhoe Loaders Work; How Caterpillar Makes Challenger® Agricultural Tractors; and How NASCAR Race Cars Work. No word yet when the site will answer "Why does it rain on my day off?"

FIELDS OF EXCELLENCE® CONTEST

Pioneer Manufacturing’s fifth national Fields of Excellence contest to recognize outstanding athletic fields and those who create and maintain them has begun. Any institution or organization that regularly maintains an outdoor athletic field is eligible.

Designed to foster community and school pride, the contest awards a four-color banner and framed certificate proclaiming their achievements, and selects content award winners a four-color banner and compact utility tractors.

WASTE WATER STUDY

This fall, Delaware Valley College begins a 3-year study investigating the subsurface application of wastewater to an athletic field. Waste water generated from the campus will be applied to an athletic field through a subsurface drip irrigation system. Turf quality and field playability will be the main variables assessed. Three rates of wear will be applied to the field using a wear machine.

The study is funded by the Pennsylvania state Dept. of Environmental Protection and is part of a larger study focusing on the on-site disposal of sewage effluent. For more information please contact Larry Hesper or Dr. Doug Linde, Department of Agronomy, Delaware Valley College, 215-489-2260.

TurF SHOWS

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) will hold its 26th annual Turf and Grounds Exposition, in cooperation with Cornell University, November 13-15 at the Convention Center at Onecenter in Syracuse. Call 800-873-8873 or email nysta@nysta.org for information.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council will hold its 25th annual Conference and Trade Show January 29-30 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Call 301-345-4199 or email tk77@umail.umd.edu.