

Rutgers' green science pays off

Ken Budd, president of Budd Seed and Dick Olson, president of Pro Seeds Marketing, recently presented Rutgers University a check for \$409,186.78 for royalty payments on the 2000 production of Rutgers developed turfgrass varieties. The total royalties are now nearly \$500,000.

"Rutgers continues to be the world leader in the research and development of improved turfgrass varieties," stated Ken Budd. "We look forward to our firm commitment to the total support of Rutgers to fulfill our customer needs," added Olson.

Based in Winston-Salem, NC, Budd Seed markets several varieties such as Rebel turf-type tall fescue, Palmer perennial ryegrass, and Preakness Kentucky bluegrass.

Based in Jefferson, OR, Pro Seeds Marketing has become one of the largest distributors of turf and forage seed in the industry. Included in their stable of more than 300 varieties, including Prelude and Pennant perennial ryegrasses, Falcon, Finelawn, and Shenandoah tall fescues, Reliant hard fescue, and Apollo, Dragon and Princeton P-105 Kentucky Bluegrasses.



Dr. William Meyer (left) and Dr. Stacy Bonas of Rutgers University accept a \$409,186 royalty check from Budd Seed and Pro Seeds Marketing, presented by Budd Seed President Ken Budd.

Becker Underwood has new president

Dr. Peter Innes has been promoted to president of Becker Underwood, Inc., provider of bio-agronomic products and specialty colorants. Innes formerly directed the company's European subsidiary. Roger Underwood will become CEO. Innes' appointment reflects the company's growing involvement in the discovery, scale-up fermentation, and formulation of a variety of products based on naturally occurring microorganisms that help maximize yield and protect plants from pest and disease.

New Textron turf VPs

Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products has named four new vice presidents to lead sales and marketing for its turf and professional lawn care divisions. Jon Carlson, the company's new president, recently announced the team to dealers at a special meeting.

Dennis Schwieger has been named executive vice president of sales and marketing for Turf and PLC (Bob-Cat, Bunton, Cushman, Jacobsen, Ryan). Three other new vice presidents will report to Schwieger: Ralph Nicotera has been promoted to vice president of marketing and product management; Joe Thompson has been appointed vice president of sales; and Joe LaFollette is the new vice president of customer care.



Texans' stadium to have modular turf system

Sports turf specialist StrathAyr Turf Systems, along with Glenn Rehbein Companies and Turfgrass America, will install the StrathAyr ModulAyr System, a removable natural grass field, in Houston's new Reliant Stadium.

The retractable roof stadium that will be home to the NFL Houston Texans and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo it will seat 69,500 and open in August.

It is the first retractable roof NFL facility, scheduled to host Super Bowl 2004, 2002 Big 12 Conference Championship and may be part of a potential Olympic 2012 bid.

The system's two unique aspects are its flexibility and enhanced rootzone profile, says StrathAyr. The system incorporates portable turf modules that are 8 x 8 ft., 7 1/2 in. deep and include a metal drainage base. The modules incorporate a growing medium of 4 1/2 in. deep, which is reinforced with ReFlex mesh elements, which are small pieces of nylon mesh, to increase field stability, aid in water and air management, and provide a forgiving (non-hard) surface for the athletes.

The modules are designed so that any module can be replaced without affecting the adjacent module. The modules are easily exchanged to combat excessive wear and the effects of extended time in shade. The field will be completely removed to an outside nursery once a year while the Stadium hosts the Livestock Show and Rodeo and other events.



You don't often see red painted onto the fantastic turf at Beaver Stadium, home to Penn State football (top) but after last Sept. 11, head groundskeeper Bob Hudzik added a patriotic red stripe opposite the traditional blue ones at the 20's and 50 (below). Pictures taken by PSU groundskeeper Paul Curtis.