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LEBANON CHEMICAL EXPANDS COMMITMENT TO TURF MARKET

Construction of a new warehouse is a sign of Lebanon Chemical’s expanding commitment to the turf market, says its president, Vernon Bishop. Ground was broken recently for the 52,000 square foot building located adjacent to the company’s headquarters and main plant in Lebanon, PA.

The company has also been steadily building a national network of storage facilities to improve service to customers outside of Pennsylvania. Four other Lebanon plants with warehouses are located in Jamesport, Long Island, NY, Dayton, NJ, Danville, IL, and Richmond, VA. The expansion has increased Lebanon’s presence in the turf market to 300 distributors in 42 states.

Bishop believes that "quick manufacturing" to meet seasonal demand is the wrong approach. “The additional storage capacity allows Lebanon to meet peak season demands without sacrificing production standards," he says.”

RAIN BIRD GOLF NAMES FERRON ENGINEER

Dave Ferron has been appointed golf product application engineer/field service for the newly formed Golf Division of Rain Bird Sales, Inc., Glendora, Calif. The announcement was made by Ed Shoemaker, division vice president.

In his new position Ferron supervises the field servicing of all Rain Bird golf course irrigation products on the West Coast. He also provides training on updated service techniques for distributor and golf course maintenance and service personnel.

Before joining the company he spent five years in landscape contracting in Seattle, Wash. He specialized in landscape construction and irrigation installation for both large and small commercial and residential jobs.

Ferron received his bachelor’s degree in landscape horticulture from the University of Idaho. He lives in Ontario, Calif., with his wife, and is a member of the Washington State Nurseryman’s Association.
DE MATTEO JOINS LOFTS AS SERVICE AGRONOMIST

Lofts, Inc., of Bound Brook, N.J., recently appointed John De Matteo technical service agronomist. His responsibilities include technical aid to the firm’s professional clients, including golf course superintendents and architects as well as athletic turf superintendents.

De Matteo’s experience includes his most recent position as regional golf course superintendent for the American Golf Corporation.

Prior to that, his position as golf course superintendent at three major country clubs included golf course construction and renovation.

While at Pinehurst, he prepared the golf course for several prestigious tournaments, including the PGA Tour’s Hall of Fame Golf Classic and the USGA-sponsored Men’s World Team Amateur Tournament.

A graduate of Pennsylvania’s Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture, De Matteo is a certified golf course superintendent. He is a member of the American Society of Agronomy.

OHIO LAB STUDIES PESTICIDES IN SOIL

Dr. Harry Niemczyk, professor of entomology for Ohio State University, will direct a new study into the fate and movement of pesticides in thatch and soil. The work will take place at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, OH.

Backed by a research grant from the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, Niemczyk will explore the possible role of microbes in breaking down commonly used insecticides for grub control. Work has begun on Mobay’s Oftanol, Ciba Geigy’s new Triumph insecticide, Rhone Poulenc’s Mocap and Union Carbide’s Sevin. In addition to the movement of the products, Niemczyk will study how long the materials last in the thatch and soil.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) has taken most of the hassle out of holding a round robin doubles tournament for senior tennis players with its new Senior Recreational Doubles Kit. The program kit, available for $6.50 from USTA, includes all necessary materials (except equipment) for a coordinator to operate a five-week tournament for seniors with an unlimited number of players.

The kit includes everything from promotional posters to award certificates. It also includes model press releases, tournament applications, a scheduling format, player record cards and even a warm-up exercise program. The kit is offered in cooperation with the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the National Recreation and Park Association.

The USTA Senior Tennis Council works to provide programs for men and women over the age of 35 years. The doubles kit is designed for average players 50 years of age or older. The council is vigorously promoting recreational tennis programs to appeal to noncompetitive senior players. In addition to the doubles kit, it also has a grant program to help fund local organizers of low-key competition.

For better senior tennis players the Council provides international tournaments and national rankings. For more information on USTA or seniors tennis write USTA, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 (212) 302-3322.

SUPERINTENDENTS GROUP BACKS SPORTS TURF

The Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association Board has voted to participate in a five county program of school athletic field improvement. Jeffrey Granger, president of the association and superintendent of Fauquier Springs Country Club, said the association will work with state and county extension turf specialists to promote safer sports turf.

They will do this by informing school systems within Prince George’s, Montgomery, Arlington, Fairfax and Fauquier counties of the availability of assistance. When assistance is requested, the superintendent will visit the school. To expand the educational programs pertaining to sports turf management, the superintendents will help distribute educational materials to schools and make recommendations to local, county and state educational programs for future curriculum needs.

All work will be performed by volunteers says Granger. “We are professionals in turfgrass management and it is our education, experience and professionalism that may actually help decrease the number of injuries among young athletes. Golf course superintendents and assistants volunteering their time to make on-site visits when needed to their local athletic field will not only provide a much needed service to our community, but will also bring credit to our chapter and our profession.”

Working with the turf extension specialists, the superintendents will help provide sports turf managers at schools with guidance, information and education, concludes Granger.
AIR INJECTION SYSTEM

Beginning this month, a new air injection system will be standard on all Grass Caddy attachments for Cushman Front Line mowers. The new blower system increases air volume in the pickup chute by 30 percent which prevents the problem of wet grass clippings plugging the chute. Trash and clippings do not pass through the blower.

The steel blower housing mounts on the mower deck. A ten-inch cast aluminum blower wheel is driven by a V-belt from the mower deck gear box. A four-inch flexible hose injects air into the chute to create a high-speed cushion of air to the hopper.

Owners of existing Front Lines with Grass Caddies can obtain a retrofitting kit for the air injection system. The company recommends the system be used for Front Lines with 18 hp or more for best results when mowing wet grass.

The Grass Caddy is designed specifically for Front Line mowers equipped with 60-inch side discharge mower decks. It features a 16-bushel hopper and hydraulic dump system. Without leaving the mower seat, the operator can empty the hopper into a truck bed or trailer up to 412 feet high.

A window in the hopper cover enables the operator to see when it is getting full.

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LIQUID TURF FUNGICIDE

A new liquid formulation of Dyrene 4 turf fungicide is now available from distributors of Mobay Specialty Products Group. Dyrene 4 has been used in wettable powder form for more than 25 years to control leaf spot on turf.

Specialty Products Group Manager Allen Haws says the liquid formulation provides the same effective control as the wettable powder, but it can be applied at half the rate of the original Dyrene and provides twice the residual. The benefits make the fungicide more economical to use.

The liquid formulation eliminates settling out problems in the tank and has no phytotoxicity. In addition to leaf spot, the fungicide also provides control of dollar spot, brown patch, copper spot, snow molds and rust. The liquid is packaged in 212 gallon containers.

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ROOKIES

PRODUCT UPDATE

GROUND DRIVE SPREADER

No PTO or separate engine is required to operate Blue River’s three-bushel seeder/spreader. Designed with all-terrain vehicles in mind, the spreader is ground driven. A heavy duty roller chain and sealed 90 degree gearbox transfer power smoothly from an axle-mounted sprocket to the spreader’s fan and cast iron agitator.

A jaw-type clutch allows the drive line to be disengaged for easy movement between fields. The hopper shut-off gate allows the unit to be set in motion before material reaches the agitator, thus preventing locked drive lines. Controls are easily accessible to the driver of the pulling vehicle.

Three and five bushel hopper extensions are available to raise the unit’s seed or fertilizer capacity to either six or eight bushels. The unit can be used in rugged or hard-to-reach areas and is simple to operate.

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DISEASE CONTROL

Chipco Allette fungicide has received label approval from the Environmental Protection Agency for control of pythium blight on turfgrass.

It features a unique systemic mode of action, which provides both upward and downward movement within the plant. It is applied as a foliar spray, providing outstanding disease control while demonstrating a high safety level to turfgrass.

The fungicide is recommended for use at a rate of four to eight ounces per 1,000 square feet, providing an application interval of 14 to 21 days, depending on the rate used. It should be applied using one to five gallons of water carrier per 1,000 square feet and does not require watering in following application.

Chipco Allette carries only a “Caution” advisory on its label, indicating that only routine precautionary procedures are required.

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