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VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER SIX

JUNE 1992

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14 SOIL POLYMERS FOR TURF AREAS: A TECHNICAL REVIEW

Acknowledged to increase the water-holding capacity of soil, polymers help extend irrigation intervals. This article explores polymer use in large turf irrigation management programs.

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30 SUCCESS WITH SOD: FROM SELECTION TO INSTALLATION

Making sure that "instant green" lasts more than an instant means paying attention to the basics.

35 SPORTS TURF MOWING TRENDS: MANUFACTURERS' ROUNDTABLE

Translated by mower designers and engineers, the needs and desires of today's turf professionals become the improvements of tomorrow. Manufacturers must keep their "ears to the ground" for technology to move forward. Here's what they're hearing.

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ON THE COVER: Reel mower at work in the outfield of Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy Jacobsen/Textron.



“...AND HEEERE’S SUNNY!”

“Thank you Ed. What a summer I have in store for our audience this year. Now I don’t want you to worry about how badly I’m burning up turf...”

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THE FRONT OFFICE

OPINION PAGE

RESTORING FAITH IN THE PESTICIDE PROCESS



Atremendous cooperative effort among specialty chemical suppliers that began more than a year ago is beginning to gather steam. This fall, select green industry publications will carry an insert designed to restore faith in the scientific process that applicators, suppliers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follow to protect our environment.

The project is sponsored by Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) based in Washington, DC. RISE represents specialty pesticides used in turf, ornamental, pest management, vegetation control and other non-agricultural applications.

The insert is being produced by editors of industry publications, not by the chemical companies or their marketing departments. This is the first time that editors from competing magazines have agreed to work together on the same project. We all have assignments and deadlines above and beyond our regular load. Furthermore, publishers have given full support to their editors and are donating other services.

The insert is intended to be a pass-along piece for those concerned about specialty chemicals at your facility. Thousands of extra copies will be available from RISE so that you can correct some of the misconceptions they may have about chemicals. It will be attention-getting, easy to read, objective, and considerably more "user friendly" than a product label or a material safety data sheet.

We hope the insert will open a line of communication on the subject of pesticides and deflate the fear tactics of anti-pesticide groups. It has already improved cooperation among competitors in the chemical and publishing industries.

Allen James, executive director of RISE, was just appointed to a new EPA pesticide advisory committee. The panel is comprised of federal and state government policy makers, industry leaders, and consumer and environmental spokespersons. RISE might be the organization to finally unite the specialty chemical industry — from the manufacturer to the applicator to the customer.

Bruce F. Shank

EVENTS

CALENDAR

JUNE

18-19 Golf Clubhouse Design and Site Planning Course and Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Contact: Office of Development and External Relations, GSD, Harvard University, (617) 495-4315, fax (617) 495-5967.

22 Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association Fund-Raiser Golf Tournament, Normanside Country Club, Delmar, NY. Contact: NEGCSEA (518) 765-1322.

22-23 Golf Course Design Course and Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Contact: Office of Development and External Relations, GSD, Harvard University, (617) 495-4315, fax (617) 495-5967.

24-25 Resort Development, Planning and Design Course and Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Contact: Office of Development and External Relations, GSD, Harvard University, (617) 495-4315, fax (617) 495-5967.

JULY

1 1992 Cornell Turfgrass Field Day, Pine Island, NY. Contact: New York State Turfgrass Association (800) 873-TURF.

15 Maryland Turfgrass Field Day, Cherry Hill Turfgrass Research Facility, Silver Springs, MD. Contact: Peter Dernoeden, Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland, (301) 405-1337.

21-23 Pan Pacific Industry Conference & Trade Show, Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Honolulu, HI. Contact: Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (808) 545-1533.

Send announcements on your events two months in advance to editor, sportsTURF magazine, P.O. Box 8420, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or FAX to (818) 781-8517.

SAND CORP TO SUPPLY FOR NICKLAUS COURSES

Best Sand Corporation in Chardon, OH, has been selected to supply all bunker sand for two new Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Courses currently under construction in Ohio. Approximately 20,000 tons of its Ohio bunker sand will be used for the Barrington and Glenmoor golf clubs.

Nicklaus will officially open his Signature Golf Course at Glenmoor in Canton, OH, July 1, when he will tee off the first ball and play a round with developer Bart Wolstein and the club's pro, Doug Grove. Barrington Golf Club, in Aurora, OH, is scheduled to open in the summer of 1993.

RISE FIGHTS LOCAL PESTICIDE REGULATIONS

In testimony delivered to the House Agriculture Committee's Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, Allen James, executive director of RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), urged support for proposed federal legislation which would preempt local pesticide laws. The issue has become a growing concern since the Supreme Court ruled last year that communities could enact pesticide regulations which conflict with federal law.

James said that compliance with differing local regulations would place an unfair burden on smaller businesses attempting to enter or compete in national markets. He added that suppliers serving several markets, each with differing signage or informational literature requirements, would be unable to comply cost-effectively with regulations.

James also said that some proposed local regulations have attempted to ban particular pesticide products, making it impossible for retailers or suppliers to predict market demands, anticipate supply needs or stock adequate replacement products. Local pesticide laws boost taxpayer costs by requiring a system of regulatory enforcement in each area.

James asked lawmakers to enact a federal preemption statute to achieve consistent, uniform regulation rather than conflicting laws which are "impractical, unmanageable, and overly burdensome to both businesses and consumers."

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Agri-Diagnostics Associates is launching a nationwide promotional campaign to raise awareness among golfers about how golf course superintendents are applying sound environmental practices to course maintenance. The program will target the golf community, including golfers, greens committees, and club members.

A donation will be made toward the placement of an advertisement that highlights the environmental stewardship, managerial attributes, and professionalism of the trade if the superintendents purchase at least three Reveal Kits by August 30.

The advertisement is being co-sponsored by Ciba-Geigy. Called "Caring for the Earth," it will appear in selected golf publications. A promotional kit containing posters, copies of the advertisement, and a press release will be sent to participating superintendents for use in club mailings and other promotions.

Jim Donovan, manager of sales and marketing for Agri-Diagnostics Associates, commented, "Golfers may not be aware of the effort golf course superintendents put into meeting the twin challenges of keeping golf course greens and protecting the environment. Through this campaign, we hope to create public understanding and recognition of the scientific practices and technologies superintendents are applying to safeguard the environment."

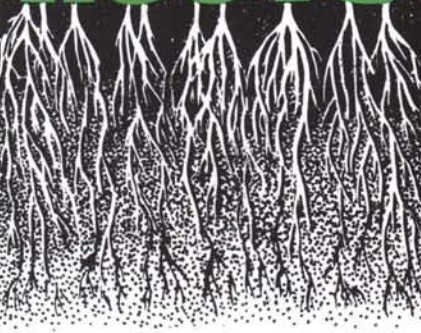
COLESWORTHY NAMED HUNTER FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVE

Kevin Colesworthy has been appointed Hunter Industries' district manager for northern Florida.

Colesworthy will coordinate sales and marketing efforts for Hunter residential sprinklers for turf and landscape and commercial sprinklers for sports fields, parks, and public areas. He will also introduce new products and supervise training. Based in Orlando, FL, he will call on landscape contractors, landscape architects, municipalities, and product distributors.

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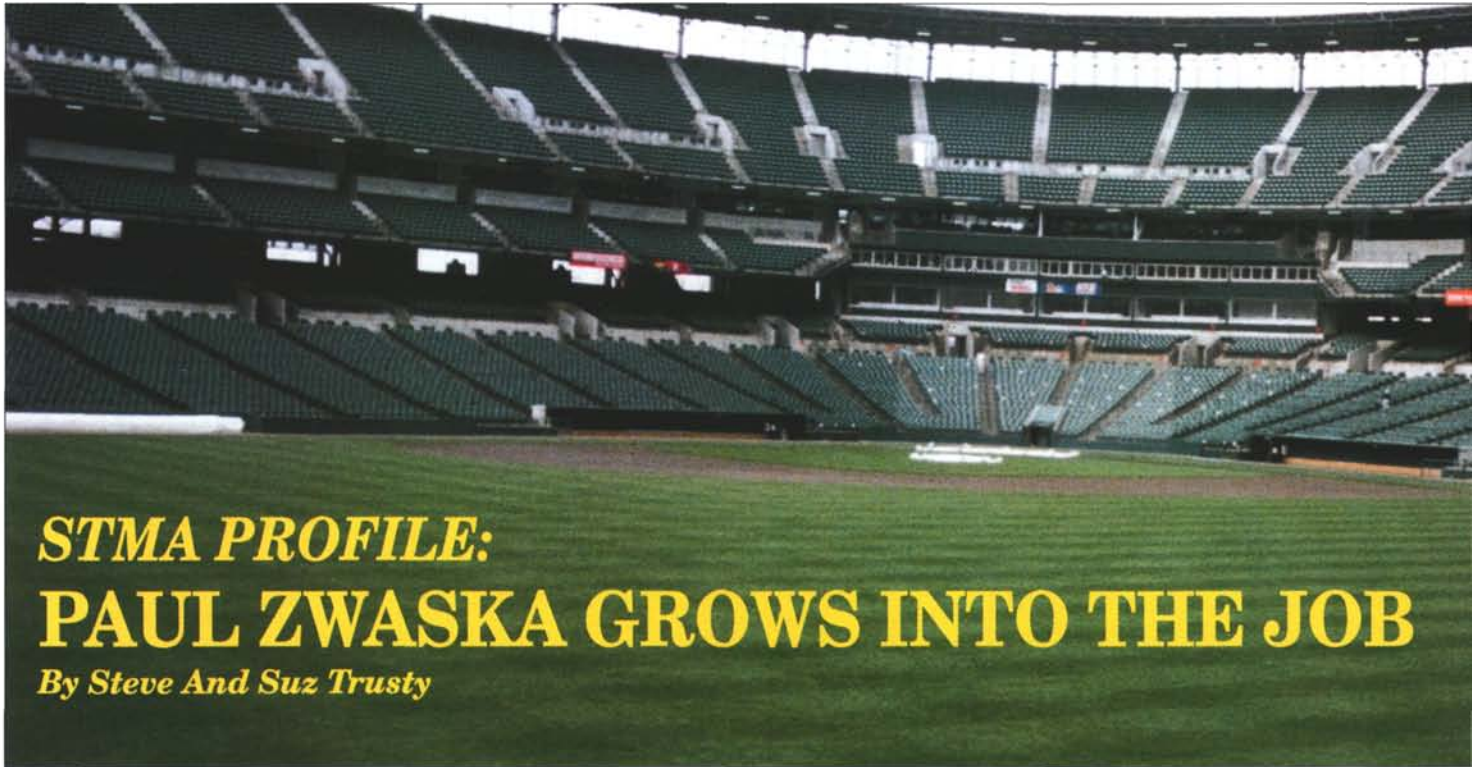
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STMA PROFILE:

PAUL ZWASKA GROWS INTO THE JOB

By Steve And Suz Trusty

View from the bull pens, Oriole Park at Camden Yards.
Photo courtesy Don Roberts, STN Sports/Southern Turf Nurseries.

Vines trail behind the center field walls of Oriole Park at Camden Yard because a 10-year-old boy got hooked on groundskeeping instead of baseball.

Baltimore Orioles' head groundskeeper, Paul Zwaska, asked that those vines be part of the design as a special tribute to Wrigley Field—the ballpark where he discovered what he wanted to do when he grew up.

“Dad took me to watch the Cubs play at Wrigley Field,” Zwaska says. “I was like a kid at Christmas, in awe of everything—especially the field and the way those fellows knew just what to do to get it ready for play. That fascination hung on. Years later, when all my high school buddies were snapping photos of the ball players, I was taking shots of the ground crews in action.”

Now Zwaska works with his own seven-man grounds crew, grooming the PAT system field of the new Oriole Park.

A few things happened between then and now.

Turning Childhood Dreams Into Adult Reality

Zwaska got into groundskeeping in 1979, working for an apartment complex. Three years later, he shifted to a private

golf course in his home town of Madison, WI. While he enjoyed these positions and thrived on the constant challenge working with turf provides, the pro ballpark was his goal.

In 1981, he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in the sports turf program, an option in soil sciences in the School of Agriculture. His advisor, Dr. Jim Love, had trained a number of golf course personnel in the area. Along with the classroom workload, Love arranged for those who entered the sports turf program to get well-supervised, hands-on experience working under former students.

The sports turf program provided Zwaska with his first taste of ballpark groundskeeping. He interned under a master, Harry Gill at Milwaukee County Stadium.

Zwaska graduated in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in soil science with a specialty in turf and grounds management.

Playing In The Big Leagues

Following Gill's advice, Zwaska waited until fall to send out resumes to several major league ball clubs.

“I sent two resumes to each club,” Zwaska remembers. “One to the head

groundskeeper, and one to the general manager. All the clubs I targeted were in the north. I'd had stronger experience with cool-season grasses and besides, I don't like the heat.”

Zwaska received a “no opening” letter from Baltimore's general manager—and a call from Pat Santarone asking him to come in for an interview.

The interview was short and conversational, with little probing into his background and experience. Santarone closed with the statement that there might be an opening, but Zwaska didn't feel encouraged.

Shortly after the interview, he was offered the position as Santarone's assistant. Later he learned that Harry Gill has recommended him and filled in all the basic information—Santarone was basically checking out the compatibility of personalities.

“I couldn't have had better mentors than Gill and Santarone,” says Zwaska. “Their level of knowledge and experience, combined with their commitment to continual learning and dedication to professionalism in the sports turf field gave me the role models for my own goals. I worked as Pat's assistant from 1985 through 1990, when he retired.