



# THE NEWSLETTER

Golf Course Superintendents

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May 1998

## Rookie superintendent Jeff Oteri takes on the challenge at all-new River Bend C.C.

It was all out there for Jeff Oteri . . . first for the tasting, then for the taking.

Oteri, a “rookie” head golf course superintendent at 36, was talking about his profession.

“I couldn’t escape it,” he said, flipping back the pages of his early life. “I went to bed listening to the sounds of the sprinklers and got up to the roar of the mowers. That’s what I call exposure with a capital E!”

That was a long time ago, when Jeff lived on an island. Only the island wasn’t surrounded by water. Instead, it was plunked smack-dab in the center of Wellesley College, and it was called the Nehoiden Golf Course. Jeff’s dad, Tony, was its head superintendent.

However, the golf connection didn’t end there. Jeff’s uncle, John Oteri, was in the middle of a 30-year stay as head pro at the Thorny Lea Golf Course. But, alas, that connection apparently went sour. “I think I was left out of the gene pool

for playing the game,” Jeff summed up his mediocrity when it comes to mastering the golf swing.

Regardless, that was then and this is now. After hemming and hawing about a career (he once spent seven years on a construction gang), Jeff is caught up in the excitement of his first head superintendent job at the soon-to-open River Bend Country Club in West Bridgewater. He’s been on the site since last July and the experience since then has his enthusiasm reaching all-time levels.

“I’m really getting an education in every phase of golf course design, construction, and maintenance planning,” Oteri told. “I’m working with George Sargent, who’s one of the best when it comes to golf course architecture. He’s been fantastic. I think we’re going to have something special. All we need is a big assist from weather conditions and we’ll be on time for delivery.”

The owners of River Bend are shooting for a late spring or early summer opening. “May 15 was the original target date,” Jeff disclosed. “But I’d be inclined to look at the end of the month. Like I said, the weather will decide most of the particulars. All we need now is growth, and plenty of it.”

Oteri was tapped for the job of putting the finishing touches on River Bend and keeping the glow going because of his high standing among members at the Woodland Golf Club. Jeff spent five-and-one-half years there as assistant to Dave Mucciarone. In fact, he broke into the

business at Woodland when Dave’s dad, Norm, ran the maintenance show. He says the influence of both Norm and Dave has been a lift to his aspirations.

“I was perfectly happy working with Dave, and we were sort of a team,” Jeff explained. “That’s when a Woodland member (one-half of the dual ownership at River Bend) approached me and asked if I’d be interested in having my own head job. When I got a grasp of the whole picture, I said lead me to it. After all, something like this is what I had in mind all along.”

The fact remains that River Bend is an experience that almost didn’t happen for Oteri because of his freak return to Woodland while he was testing the waters of a regular construction career.

“My dad, who was out of the superintendents’ field at the time, had this funny

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**“I couldn’t escape it. I went to bed listening to the sounds of the sprinklers and got up to the roar of the mowers. That’s what I call exposure with a capital E!”**

**Jeff Oteri**  
**River Bend Country Club**



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**PAST PRESIDENT**  
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**GCSANE Headquarters**  
175 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02192  
(781) 453-8668 Fax (617) 449-4020

Newsletter Editor . . . Wayne LaCroix, CGCS  
Contributing Editor . . . Gerry Finn  
Business Manager . . . Michael V. Iacono, CGCS

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weed overrunning his backyard, so I went over to Woodland to get some advice on the problem from Norm Mucciarone," Jeff said. "When I got there, the weed thing became secondary. I learned that Norm was retiring, and that Dave was taking over and looking for an assistant. He looked to me, I looked at him, and I was back in the golf business, this time to stay."

Needless to say, the relationship with the Mucciarones has been solid over the years. Jeff has benefitted from it and feels that the experience of a long stay at Woodland will work into a successful head super baptism at River Bend.

River Bend will start as a public course, then wait for acceptance by golfers as a yardstick for what kind of operation lies ahead. There are people interested in making the course the basis for regular play there, and a feeling for the course to become at least a semi-private club down the road.

Oteri says its championship stretch will play to about 6,600 yards, with contrasting front and back nines. There will be lots of open space on the front, and plenty of tight wooded areas on the back.

"It will make for a lot of adjustment by the player," Jeff explained. "The first seven holes are wide open, but have some intrigue, since holes one, two, three, and nine will play around water. There are eight ponds and 17 bridges in all, so there'll be a lot of emphasis on shot-making."

Eight greens had been seeded when Oteri was contacted in February. They

***"The first seven holes are wide open, but have some intrigue, since holes #1, #2, #3, and #9 will play around water. There are eight ponds and 17 bridges in all, so there'll be a lot of emphasis on shotmaking."***

**Jeff Oteri**  
**River Bend Country Club**

were covered at the time and all seemed to be going well in the growth department. The rest of the greens, all bent fed, were to be seeded when the weather flicked on the green light.

Much of the maintenance work during the mild winter centered on cleanup and clearing. Concentration keyed on the playing (fairways) area, so making a fast track became a priority. "Let's face it," Jeff quipped. "In the early going, straying off the fairway will bring on a huge penalty. For a while it'll pay to keep the ball in play. I mean, you'll have to hit it straight."

Oteri is doing most of the maintenance planning and clearing work with the help of an assistant. Once the course is in full swing he expects to have a crew with 10 to 12 workers pulling all the refinements into place.

"So far we're all optimistic about River Bend's potential," Jeff remarked. "Being on board at the beginning is a big plus for me. I know where everything is and where it's supposed to be. This is a great opportunity for all of us. For me, it's the opportunity of a lifetime."

**GERRY FINN**

## Calendar

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| June 11      | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br>Marlborough Country Club<br>Marlborough, Mass.<br>Supt. - Kenneth Crummings   |
| June 24      | <b>Turf &amp; Research Field Day</b><br>UMass Turf Research Facility<br>South Deerfield, Mass.   |
| July 20      | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br><b>Joint Meeting with</b><br><b>Golf Course Managers</b><br>Association of Cape Cod<br>Marshfield Country Club<br>Marshfield, Mass.<br>Supt. - Robert A. Matthews, CGCS |
| August 3     | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br><b>Supt./Club Official Tournament</b><br>Framingham Country Club<br>Framingham, Mass.<br>Supt. - David Clement  |
| September 22 | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br><b>Joint Meeting with RIGCSA</b><br>Country Club of New Bedford<br>New Bedford, Mass.<br>Supt. - Brian Giblin   |
| October 5    | <b>GCSANE Monthly Meeting</b><br><b>Joint Meeting with N.H.</b><br>Vesper Country Club<br>Tyngsboro, Mass.<br>Supt. - Bert Frederick   |

# The Super Speaks Out

**This month's question: What has been your experience with the use of growth regulators?**

**Barrie Robertson, Nashua Country Club:** "This is my third year at Nashua and it's been similar to my other superintendent jobs . . . that of coming into a course with the idea of establishing a thorough revitalization program.

"Therefore, I'm into the so-called new technology products that have come along to supplant the so-called old-school method of doing things. It just so happens that I'm from the old school. So, depending on new-approach products like growth regulators is a cautious and slow involvement for me.

"However, I've put part on my revitalization program in the hands, so to speak, of a growth regulator, Primo. Happily, I'm seeing some progress on the greens, which were 90 per cent poa when I got here.

"We're trying to encourage replacing that poa with bentgrass, and Primo is helping us get there. I use it to slow down the seed heads of poa and promote the eventual takeover by bent. That's my theory even though I feel as if I lose control of the plant when I rely on Primo.

Right now, I'm using a Primo application schedule from spring through mid-July. It's working but it's been on a slow track. Yes, there are some traces of discoloration, but the promise of that poa disappearing (at a crawl) seems to appease our members when it comes to aesthetic overviews.

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***"Frankly, I still feel that I lose some control of the plant using them. However, I also realize that they've become my big weapons in the war against poa."***

**Barrie Robertson  
Nashua Country Club**

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"The growth regulator attempt also has leaked over to use on the fairways. But there again, I'm very cautious with its use. My main hope in all of this is the battle between poa and bent. It has nothing to do with cutting down on the amount of clippings, another result of applying growth regulators.

"So far, I'd have to say I'm satisfied with the experience I've had with growth regulators. Frankly, I still feel that I lose some control of the plant when using them. However, I also realize that they've become one of my big weapons in the war against poa. I have to give them a passing mark. They're doing the job here."

**Bill Spence, The Country Club:** "My experiences with growth regulators go way back to my days when I was working in California. I even remember the name of one of the first regulators, Slow Grow. We used it with some degree of success out there. However, like a lot of things you use in this business, what works in one section of the country, state, or whatever doesn't necessarily work in another. That's one of the vagaries of using chemical turf maintenance aids.

"The next name-brand regulator that comes to mind, or the one that I had experience with, popped up when I was a superintendent at the Kansas City Country Club. Then, it was called Cut Less. Again, it seemed to do the job it was intended for, and it remained part of my maintenance program.

"I also depended on growth regulators when I came to The Country Club, and their life span over the period of time I spent on the West Coast, Kansas City, and here adds up to well over 15 years.

"But the growing conditions in our area have taken on a pattern lately, especially our springs, which somehow seem to wind up being a period of cool temperatures and persistent rain. I find that this combination of weather and growth regulators are not a good mix.

Almost on schedule our greens have become sparse and discolored by the end of each May.

"So I stopped using growth regulators last year. It probably evened out in matter of cost factors. I came to depend more on light-weight mowing methods, and it worked into a standoff as to the cost of purchasing growth regulators and collecting excessive clippings.

"We have small tees and greens here, and I felt that regulators were weakening the plants, along with the increased play we've experienced. Results haven't been alarming, but the good color has returned.

"Again, I should stress the location factor, and how results can vary from one place to another. I can't knock growth regulators. They served the purpose at the right time and right place. But for now I'm not using them."

**Dean Robertson, Kernwood Country Club:** "Yes, I'm into growth regulators, and the overall effect has been favorable. It's a little pricey. It costs us \$600-\$800 a feeding and we feed three to four times a year. But it cuts down on labor. There's less molding and less clippings to pick up.

"Growth regulators have been around for a lot of years, but we've been using them for the last three or four years. My program starts with an application of something called Embark in early spring. Then I switch to Primo for the rest of the year. I'd say one feeding is good for at least four weeks.

"My outlook on the value of growth regulators is that they do two jobs, suppress the seed heads of poa annua, and stunt the growth of grass in places where heavy clippings are now a no-no in the turf maintenance lexicon.

It's true that growth regulators are a source of discoloration, but there's an iron fertilizer additive out there that masks the yellow coloring which sometimes follows a regulator application. I'm satisfied with the way it's handled my turf program.

"In fact, I've even used Primo on greens to speed them up when the need is present. I know, I know. All this technology never seems to cease. But you have to tell yourself, we (superintendents) might have been the ones who created this situation. Now, we have to consider ourselves responsible for living with it."

**GERRY FINN**

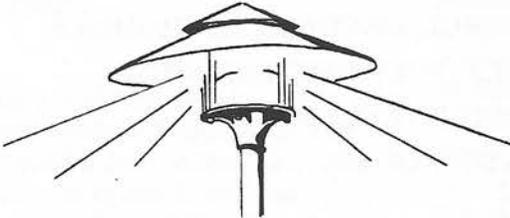
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<b>STRAINERS</b>	* PERFECTION, SURE FLO, LAKOS
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<b>VALVES</b>	* ALL TYPES
<b>VALVES (SOLENOID)</b>	* ALL TYPES
<b>VALVES BOXES</b>	* ALL TYPES, AMETEK & CARSON
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Research Report

# 1997 Turfgrass Nematode Studies: Part II

Robert L. Wik  
and Truth Nissenbaum,  
Department of Microbiology,  
University of Massachusetts

**Acknowledgments:** I thank the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England and Abbot Laboratories for financial support. Also, thanks to cooperators Andy Gay and Dave Bergeron.

**A note about the statistics:** Nematodes are not evenly distributed in the soil. This means that there is a lot of variability in populations when soil samples are examined. To minimize the variability, composite samples are taken from each plot, and the treatments are replicated five times. Despite these precautions, large differences in numbers from one treatment to the next may not prove to be statistically different. It may be that the treatment had an effect but it could not be proven by statistics. However, large differences from treatment to treatment could also be due to chance (unequal distribution) rather than from treatment.

**Evaluation of DiTera Drenches for Managing Plant Parasitic Nematodes in Turf, 1997 and 1997:** A putting green in South Hadley, Massachusetts with *Ring*, *Lance*, and *Stunt* was chosen for this study. The turf was a mixture of annual bluegrass and bentgrass. The putting green, approximately 75 years old, was built on native clay soil with an upper layer of 3-4" of sandy soil. Mechanical analysis of the top 4" of soil showed it to be 83.6% sand, 11.98% silt, and 4.5% clay. USDA criteria classify this soil as a loamy coarse sand based on the sand subfractions. Plots were 6'x6', six replications per

treatment, and completely randomized. In 1996, treatments consisted of two rates of DiTera, one rate of Nematicur, and an untreated control. In 1997, only one rate of DiTera was applied. The green was mowed, fertilized, watered, and cared for consistent with standard golf green management practices. In the 1996 trial, DiTera was drenched into the plots at the rate of 1.16 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. and 2.32 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. of formulated product in 55.5 gallons of water. Nematicur 10G was applied once at the rate of 2.3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. For nematode assays, 10 subsamples per plot were collected with a 1" soil sampling tube to a depth of 4", bulked, and extracted. Nematodes were recovered by wet sieving/sugar flotation and identified to genus. The data was subjected to a one-way analysis of variance and a test of LSD. In the 1997 trial, 1997 treatment plots were the same as 1996; however, only the 1.16 lb. rate of DiTera was tested. All other treatments and methods were the same as 1996.

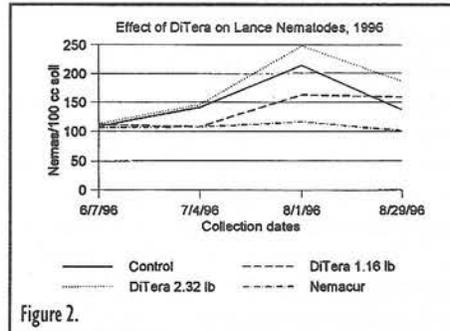


Figure 2.

**Results 1996.** Ring populations were not significantly reduced by either DiTera or Nematicur (fig. 1). Lance was significantly reduced ( $p = 0.1\%$ ) compared to the controls on both August collection dates (fig. 2). DiTera did not reduce Lance populations. Stunt was not reduced by either the DiTera or Nematicur on any of the collection dates (fig. 3). **Results 1997.** Ring and Lance populations were not significantly reduced by either DiTera or Nematicur (fig. 1 & 2). July and August populations of Lance in the Nematicur treatment are approximately half of the control treatments; however, plot to plot variability precluded demonstration of

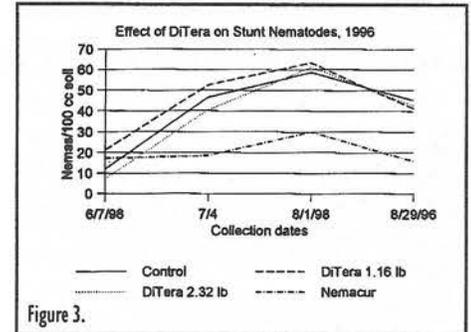


Figure 3.

significant differences. Nematicur significantly reduced Stunt populations but DiTera did not (fig. 3). There was no apparent increase in efficacy with DiTera when applied for two successive growing seasons on the same plots. Nematicur also performed below expectations in this trial.

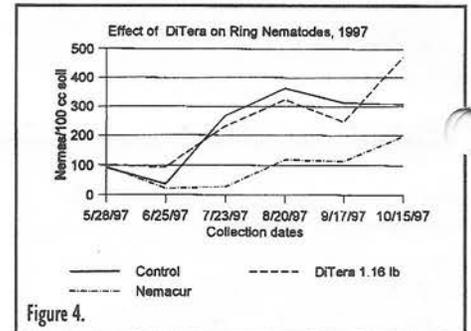


Figure 4.

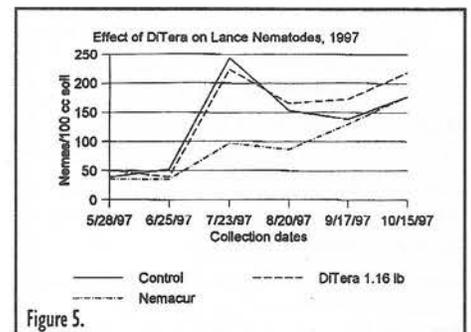


Figure 5.

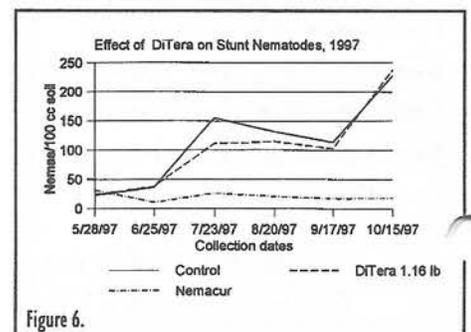


Figure 6.

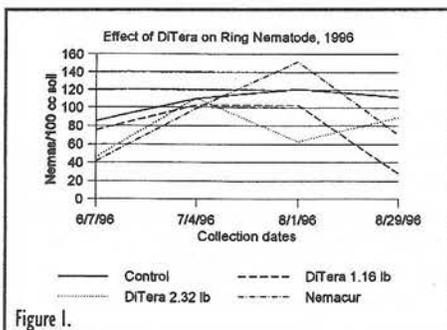


Figure 1.

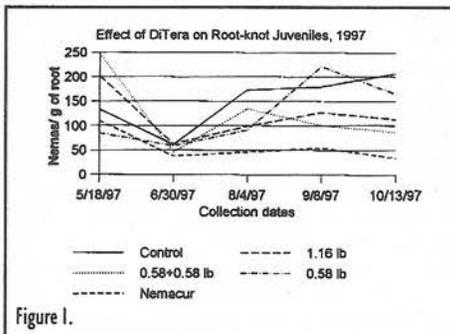
## Research Report

# 1997 Turfgrass Nematode Studies: Part III

by Robert L. Wick  
and Truth Nissenbaum,  
Department of Microbiology,  
University of Massachusetts

(Part III (of VI) of 1997 Turfgrass  
Nematode Study; continued from  
previous page.)

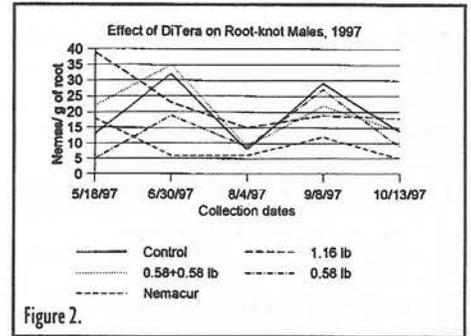
**Evaluation of DiTera Drenches for Managing Root-Knot Nematodes in Turf, 1997.** A putting green in Glen, New Hampshire was chosen for this study because of a high population of root-knot nematode and the absence of other plant parasitic nematodes. Mechanical analysis of the top 4" showed it to be 92% sand, 5.6% silt, and 2.5% clay. USDA criteria classify this soil as a coarse sand based on the sand subfractions. Some 25 plots, 6'x6', provided five replications for five treatments. A single treatment of Nema-cur, 2.3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft., was applied June 6. Three DiTera treatments applied



per 1,000 sq. ft. on June 6 were: 0.58 lbs., 1.16 lbs., and 0.58 lbs., which received a second 0.58 lb. application on July 14. Five plots served as untreated controls. All plots received approximately 0.5" irrigation following treatment application. For nematode assays, 10 subsamples per plot were collected with a 1" soil sampling tube to a depth of 3-4" and bulked. Soil was washed from roots, and 0.07 oz. (2 g.) fresh weight of roots/plot were shaker-extracted for three days in 1.7 oz. (50 ml.) water. Juveniles and males were counted, and the data was subjected to a one-way analysis of variance and a test of LSD.

There were no differences in turf quality among the treatments on any of the collection dates. The drop in juvenile nematodes apparent on June 30 is consistent with three previous years of monitoring nematodes at this site (fig. 1). Only the Nema-cur treatment significantly reduced root-knot juveniles compared to the untreated control. The Nema-cur-treated plots had lower numbers of juveniles and males throughout the season, but plot-to-plot variability precluded statistical significance on all but one collection date (fig. 1 & 2). The two 0.58 lb. applications of DiTera

showed a trend in root-knot reduction but differences were not statistically significant.



## GCSANE News

### Remember When?: GCSANE's past

*Remember when?* looks at significant events and individuals of GCSANE's past.

#### 25 years ago

The next meeting of the GCSANE will be Monday, May 14, at the Green Harbor Golf Club in Marshfield.

The course is owned by Manuel Francis, Sr. and son, Manuel, Jr. Dahn Tibbets is the golf course superintendent. Whatever, the origin of the course is interesting and worth repeating. In 1965 Manny and his son purchased land for the purpose of developing a sod farm. After removing only two crops of sod, the father-son team decided the site would be ideal for a golf course. So in the summer of 1970, they decided to build one. Manny, Sr. was to design the course and carry on all phases of construction. Manny, Jr.'s project was to install the irrigation system. Believe it or not, the course was opened for play in the 1971 season, a feat that defies logic!

#### 15 years ago

Despite extraordinarily frightful inclement weather, we had quite a turnout for the Guy Tedesco Invitational qualifying tournament at New Seabury golf course.

Because of the rain, the tournament was played on the front nine of the Executive Course and the back nine of

the Championship Course. The five qualifying winners were: Ken Mooradian, low gross-78; John Streeter, 81-10-71; Doug Johnson, 88-17-71; and Steve Murphy, 83-12-71. Larry Bunn, with a 77-7-70, was low net in the commercial division.

#### 5 years ago

The results are in. The winter of 1992-93 was one when Mother Nature flirted with record numbers in amount of snowfall in the Massachusetts cities of Boston, Worcester, and Springfield. According to WCVB-TV (Channel 5) meteorologist Dick Albert, Boston had a snowfall of 82 inches. That compares with the record 89 inches that fell in 1947-48 and the seasonal average of 40 inches.

Worcester hit a new record of 119 inches compared to its 67-inch norm, while Springfield came in at 90.4 inches, well above its average drop of 48 inches. *The Newsletter* thanks associate editor Matt Crowther for making these worthwhile statistics available.

Poquoy Brook was the site of the association's first golf meeting of the season with the following winners of a best-16 holes tournament. Gross: Ed Ulmann, 70; Jack Hassett, 72. Net: Mike Hermanson and Steve Murphy, 68; Dave Comee, Eric Newell, and Dick Duggan, 70.

GERRY FINN

## Scholarship News

## AgrEvo presents green industry scholarships at Regional Turf Conference

AgrEvo showed support of present and future green industry professionals at the first-ever New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show in Providence, R.I.

The conference was hosted by golf course superintendent associations from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont.

According to David Sylvester, Green Industry Sales Representative, AgrEvo awarded scholarships to University of Massachusetts students Kurt Calderwood

and Zachary Easton at the opening session March 3, and also sponsored a luncheon for conference attendees March 4.

Sylvester, a 1975 NOR-AM (now AgrEvo) Turfgrass Scholarship recipient at the University of Massachusetts and board member of the Massachusetts Turf and Lawn Grass Association, presented the scholarships and commended the associations involved for their joint effort. "AgrEvo is committed to the continuing education of present and future turfgrass

managers, and supports golf course superintendent associations in their combined efforts to perpetuate the success and professionalism of the green industry."

AgrEvo is U. S. manufacturer of *Delta-Gard* insecticides containing deltamethrin, that received EPA registration in January. Other products include: *Acclaim Extra* herbicide, *Finale* herbicide, *Illoxan* herbicide, and *Prograss* herbicide; *Banol* fungicide and *ProStar* fungicide; and *Turcam* insecticides.

## DIVOT DRIFT...announcements...educational seminars...job opportunities ...tournament results...and miscellaneous items of interest to the membership.

### INFORMATION

**Turf and Nursery Research Field Day, Wednesday, June 24, 1998 at the UMass Turf Research Facility, South Deerfield, Mass.** This field day will focus on the current research taking place at the Turf Research Facility. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and speak with research and extension faculty and staff, view projects underway, and participate in a variety of field workshops.

**Turf research:** Research includes studies on the biology and integrated management of turf-damaging insects, soil amendment studies, weed management studies both short and long-term, and turfgrass cultivar trials. Research areas include golf, lawn, and athletic field turf. The field day will also feature vendor displays and demonstrations. Pesticide recertification contact hours will be available. For more information contact Thom Griffin, Turf Research Facility Manager, at (413) 545-3066, or Mary Owen, UMass Extension, at (508) 892-0382.

**Nursery research:** Nursery crop research projects at UMass will be on display at this second annual event. Dr. Reeser Manley will present new projects and highlight the results of the past year's research results. Included in the program will be results of the 1997 experiments on root freezing tolerance in deciduous trees and an overview of the current research in this area; results of 1997-98 experiments on overwintering containerized trees; an update on work related to production of woody plants for wetland landscapes; a demonstration of the Cellugro system for in-ground production of container-marketed plants; a report on salt tolerant vegetation from research conducted for the Mass. Highway Dept.; and an update on the ornamental grass trial program at UMass. For more information contact Kathleen Carroll at (413) 545-0895 or Dr. Reeser Manley at (413) 545-2353.

**Massachusetts IPM Council promoting integrated pest management in every community.** In the Bay State, aggressive promotion of integrated pest management (IPM) in nonagricultural settings began in the spring of 1996 with the development of the Massachusetts IPM Council. This council consists of representatives from state and federal government agencies including the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Mosquito Control Association, academia through the UMass Extension, non-profit public interest groups including MASSPIRG and The Waste Watch Center, and representatives from the New England Pest Control Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Massachusetts Association of Lawn-care Professionals, and the New England Sports Turf Managers Association.

With just over a year behind them, council members have agreed on a mission statement, and have formed workgroup committees that will begin IPM projects. The purpose of these workgroups is to better define IPM practice within the various non-agricultural environments, and to promote IPM in general through technical support and greater public outreach activities. Projects include a *Structural IPM Checklist* and a *Structural IPM Standards* fact sheet so that pesticide professionals working on indoor pest control can inform their clients about their good management practices. Additional projects include an IPM certification process by and for turf and golf course pest control operators, and, lastly, an informational brochure on council efforts geared to the general public.

Through this voluntary and consensus-driven alliance, the council intends to make a significant contribution to the state's IPM infrastructure by including non-traditional, non-agricultural environments into Massachusetts' IPM landscape!

**Zone II Ground Water Protection bulletin.** The Pesticide Bureau's 1997 listing of Massachusetts towns containing Zone II areas has changed significantly from last year. Towns with wellhead protection areas (Zone IIs) for wells pumping 100,000 gallons per day or over, have jumped to 238, compared to last year's 198. New wells may have come on line for many previously listed towns, resulting in even greater changes. **Don't go by last year's list!** Check the updated *Pesticide Bureau Information Bulletin, March 1997, Groundwater Protection Regulations, 333 CMR 12:00*. All certified/licensed pesticide applicators in Massachusetts were mailed this bulletin. If you did not receive this mailing, call the Pesticide Bureau for a copy at (617) 727-3020, x129 or x126.

To resolve whether or not your application site is covered under these regulations, follow these steps: **(A)** Determine if you plan to apply pesticide products containing any of 27 active ingredients covered under the groundwater protection regulations 333 CMR 12:00. Check your Information Bulletin for a list of active ingredients. **(B)** Determine if the town where you plan to apply a regulated product is on the Zone II list. Check your Information Bulletin for a list for 1997. **(C)** Determine whether your intended application site falls under any of the Zone IIs of the listed town(s) by identifying each site on the maps provided through any of the following locations: **(1)** Local Boards of Health: Go to the local Board of Health of the listed town and ask to see the Title Five Map provided by the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP), or, **(2)** DEP's Regional Offices: Go to one of DEP's Regional Offices and ask to see the Title Five Map. Call (617) 292-5500 for information on the office nearest you, or, **(3)** Pesticide Bureau, Boston: Go to the Mass. Dept. of Food & Agriculture at 100 Cambridge St. (21st fl.), Boston, and ask to review the GIS town maps available. Please call (617) 727-3020, x129 or x126, for an appointment so we may prepare for your visit and make full use of your time.

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# A thank you note from the J.P. Roberts Company

**Dear Members of GCSANE:**

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Thank you for allowing a green (female) rookie to call on you in the early days of this venture. It took courage for you to support a new company arriving in a Ranger pickup to demonstrate products.

Thank you for the chance to grow in our home state. They say New England is the hardest part of the country to make a sale. Even though this is true, you opened up your doors and minds to our philosophy and listened. "Introduce the customer to state-of-the-art technical turf products with a one-stop shopping format.

Thank you for accepting the fact that once we got our feet wet in New England, we needed to grow outside that area to succeed. Even though we now have customers in every state (except Alaska) and several countries, our strongest area remains the Northeast.

And a special thank you from Barbara for being so supportive. I always knew of one particular golf course superintendent whose work ethic was admirable, but it was astonishing to find, without exception, so many more. Your jobs are the soul of this industry and deserve more recognition than is given.

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