

## Corn-Based Product Keeps Turf In Its Place

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 Another application of biodegradable corn-based plastics is on the market in the turf industry. Turf Tacs are biodegrad-



New "Turf Tacs" anchor turf and mulches. They are made from biodegradable, corn-based plastics.

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large percentage of your acreage to a given hybrid.

• All the Bt corn hybrids provide excellent first generation protection, but some only provide partial protection from second generation infestations (See Table 1).

• The percentage of fields with high levels of first generation infestation are low compared to the number with significant second generation infestations.

• Make sure the Bt hybrid you select has other agronomic characteristics that are important on your farm (disease resistance, yield potential).

• All fields with a Bt corn hybrid will look better than those without it when ECB larvae are present, but this doesn't always translate into increased yield.

• When the grain or silage in the field will be fed to livestock, Bt corn will decrease the incidence of ear mold.

The Bt corn technology is a good one to help protect corn yield from the pest. Because it is an excellent tool to manage the pest, there is a risk that usage levels will be high. If this occurs, then the likelihood of ECB becoming resistant to the Bt toxin will increase. For this reason, the US EPA is requir-

ing that a resistance management plan be provided along with a company's application for registration and that farmers implement the plan. The main component of a resistance management plan is that farmers leave some areas in a field or in a nearby field planted to non-Bt corn hybrids where susceptible genetic types of the ECB can survive to mate with resistant individuals that do survive on Bt corn. How this plan will be tactically implemented is still being debated and research is under way to help define the design of a resistance management approach in Pennsylvania.

able plastic staples for anchoring turfgrass, erosion control netting, and grass and flower mats. These staples are available in either U-shaped or L-shaped forms.

Advantages of the corn-based biodegradable plastics are that they help to prevent damage to mowing equipment and degrade in three to eight weeks. The staples are

2.25 inches long, 1.0 inches across, and 0.125 inches thick.

The Turf Tacs are "stapled" into the turf with a hand held unit called a Turf Tacker that allows you to drive the staples from an upright position. The Turf Tacs and the Turf Tacker were developed by Eco Turf, Inc., Chicago, Ill. and are marketed locally by Seedway.

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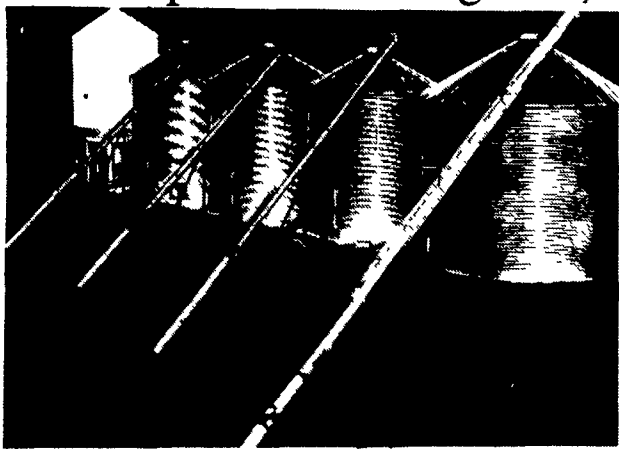
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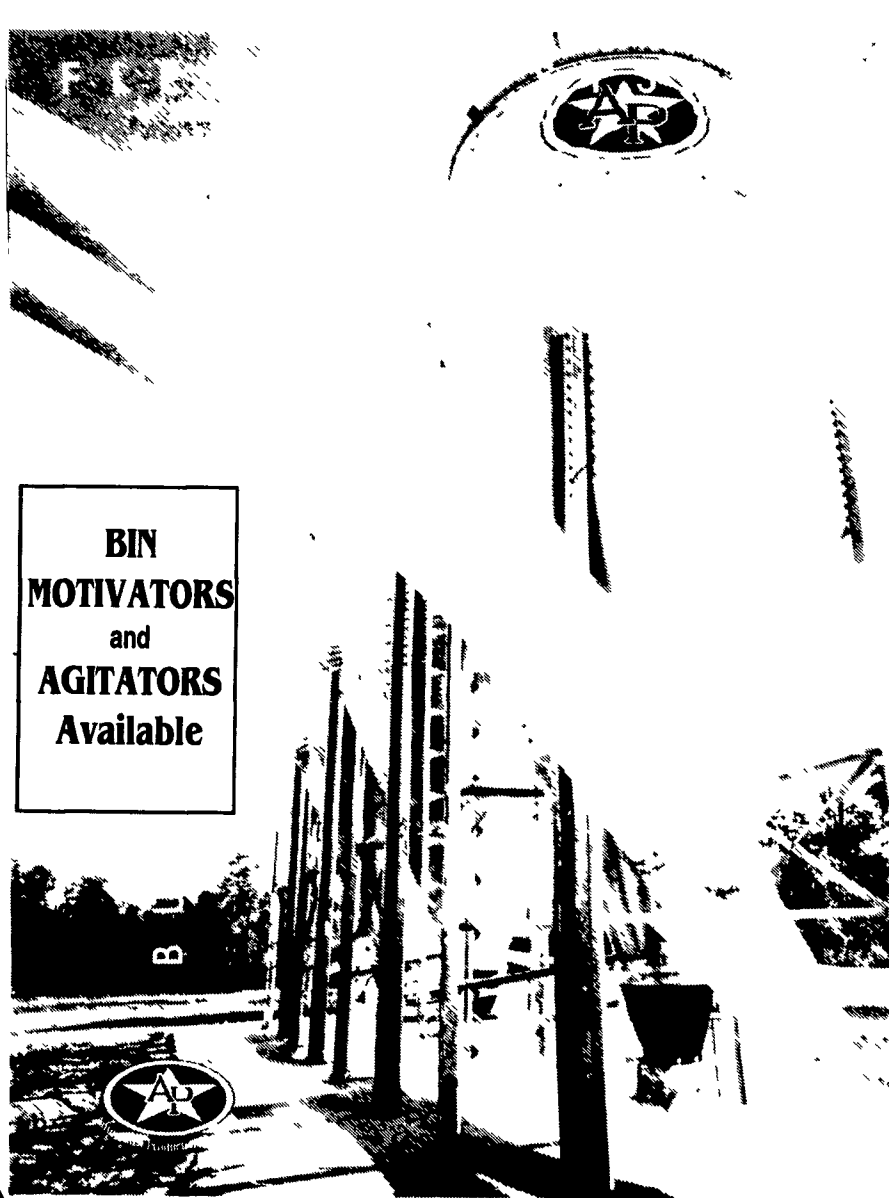


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