PLCAA widens environmental message with *Grassrecycling*

ostly they were middle-aged homeowners, and over 200 of them filled the Corpus Christi Garden Center to find out why they shouldn't bag their grass clippings. A handful of professional lawn and landscape professionals attended the Saturday morning meeting too, as Keith Hansen, the popular, rail-thin Nueces County Extension Agent, said they too can become part of the environmental movement by not doing something—by not putting their grass clippings in huge, plastic bags to be hauled off to the local landfill.

The neighborly Hansen,

somewhat of a celebrity in this flower-filled, South Texas city of 100,000 plus, dispenses easy-to-understand, practical information about lawns and landscapes in regular columns in local newspapers, and his face occasionally turns up on gulf coast television too. The folks of Corpus put a lot of stock in what he says, and that's what other extension personnel are finding out



when they tell homeowners across the nation about the Don't Bag It program.

See GRASS on page 11

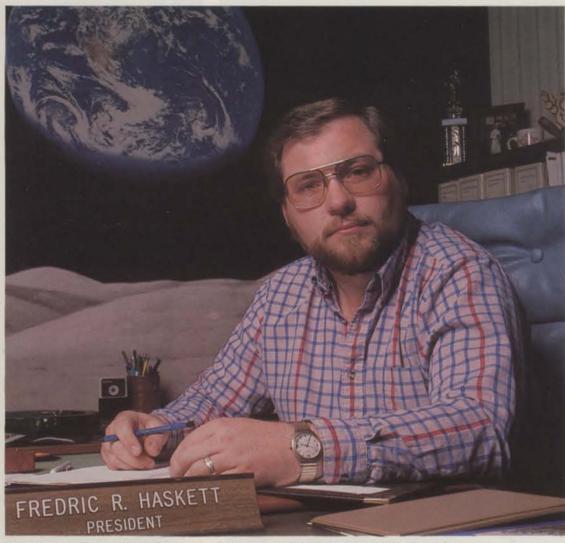
LAWN CARE INDUSTRY

Serving the needs of the professional lawn care operator

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 8

AN HIHELL PUBLICATION

AUGUST 1990



Chemical control system of the future? Fred Haskett tells how he built it. Page 6.

Training program for lawn care techs in curriculum stage

washington, D.C.—The lawn care technician of tomorrow will be a better trained technician.

That's the aim of a coalition of industry members and government officials that, in several meetings this summer here, began nailing together a model training program for lawn care technicians, a program that—with modifications from state to state or region to region—may be used by LCOs nationwide.

Ultimately, better trained technicians will boost the public's confidence in LCOs as responsible and safe users of chemical control products, believe the individuals just now determining the curriculum of the training program.

More pressing, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is just about fed up being caught in the middle of pesticide controversies—a

tiny, but extremely vocal, segment of the public clamouring for more regulation on one hand; industry jabbing from a crouch on the other—and it's starting to look at more exacting regulations for chemical applicators in 17 different pesticide-using industries. High on its list, because of the potential for people-chemical contact, is the lawn care industry.

Program needed soon

So, there is urgency for the development of a lawn technician training program, and a so-called Curriculum Committee is penciling in an outline. This committee consists of industry leaders such as Thomas Delaney representing the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), Dave Jones of Lawn Doctor, Robert Andrews of the Indiana State Lawn Care Association along with Bonnie Poli of the federal extension service, Mary Ellen Setting, the head of Maryland's pesticide regulation effort, and others.

At least eight major chemical suppliers to the industry are adding their support, although they've apparently

See TRAINING on page 25

No winners in costly spat over advertising claims

ChemLawn, NY end war of words

COLUMBUS, OHIO—A lingering legal dispute between ChemLawn Services Corporation and Robert Abrams, attorney general of the state of New York, is apparently over.

The flap, settled June 29, revolved around certain words and phrases ChemLawn used to advertise or describe its services in the mid-1980s. Specif-

ically, Abrams took aim at the lawn care leader's use of the words "safe" and "practically non-toxic" which he claimed were inaccurate and misleading. The issue festered for almost three years—aided by lawsuits involving both ChemLawn and the state of New York—and, this spring, bubbled into a national issue.

At a U.S. senate subcommittee hearing in March, Abrams and Peter Guerro of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) complained that the lawn care industry in general has been doling out inaccurate See WAR on page 8.

.

Green Industry Expo is Nov. 12-15

NASHVILLE, TN—Three shows in one. That's the Green Industry Expo 90 set for Nov. 12-15 at the Nashville Convention Center.

Three organizations are combining their efforts for one huge lawn and landscape trade show. They are: the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) and the Professional Grounds

Management Society (PGMS).

While the trade show is a cooperative effort, each of the three associations will be conducting its own annual education conference. The PLCAA Conference will run concurrently, and separately, with those of ALCA and PGMS.

For more information: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C135, Marietta GA 30068. 404/977-5222. LCI

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UPFRONT



RON HALL

ou wouldn't want to step in front of a logging truck. Not even an elephant could stop it. But a bird may make a lot of logging trucks skid to a stop.

The northern spotted owl was placed on the threatened species list early this summer. Nobody's going to mess with this bird anymore, particu-

Activists affect seed supply?

larly not timbermen. Uncle Sam says so.

The owl controversy parallels anti-field burning activism aimed at turfseed growers who, like lumbermen, are concentrated in the Pacific Northwest.

This activism may affect the quantity and/or quality of turf seed used in the green industry. Some of the turf varieties that LCOs use on clients' lawns may become scarcer in the future. If farmers can't burn off their fields after harvest, they'll either have to find alternatives or switch to grasses that don't require a burn (at least not annually). This is very much an economic matter. Farmers must grow crops that generate a profit; turf seed farmers not excluded.

The seed industry says burning is necessary, and that alternatives—microbial agents, vacuuming, etc.—either don't work well enough yet or aren't cost effective.

The turfseed seemingly at most risk from the anti-burn activists are the turf-quality bluegrasses and fine fescues. Several varieties of improved perennial ryegrasses apparently produce good yields for several seasons without burning.

Seed companies in the Pacific Northwest seek alternatives to burning as they breed grasses that require fewer field burnings. Or, compromise may allow propane burning, less spectacular and smokey than field burning.

Por theel

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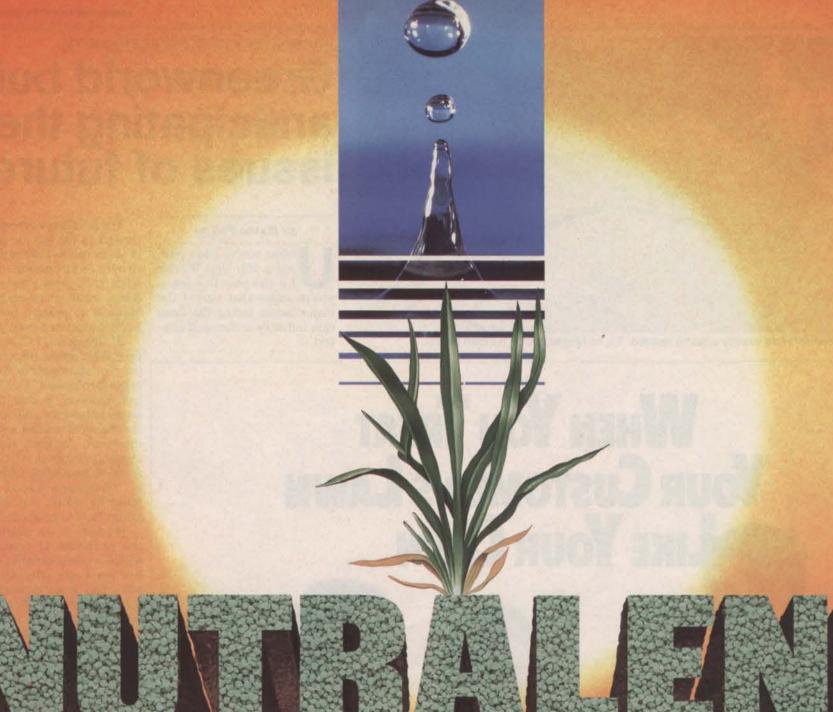


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Fred Haskett couldn't find exactly what he needed. So, he helped design his own facility.

Model chemical control safeguards

Greenworld built anticipating the issues of future

BY DAVID FRASE

nless you've been pulling a Rip Van Winkle for the past five years, you're aware that one of the major issues facing the lawn care industry is chemical control

The public eye is seemingly riveted on the use (or misuse) of chemicals as they're applied in our environment. Along with this public attention comes more government regulations to protect both the environment and people.

At this point, LCOs realize they must either comply with the new standards or find another profession. One problem, however, is that no one seems to have a viable solution for chemical control and containment. As Fred Haskett, owner/president of Greenworld in northeast Ohio puts it, "Everyone knows what must be done, but no one knows how to go about it."

Haskett is no stranger to the problems of complying with the new standards. About five years ago, after his company had gone through tremendous growth, Fred realized his operation needed a new facility. He saw the environmental changes confronting the nation and the turf industry. And, he knew that any new facility he built would have to deal with the safe storage, mixing, and handling of chemical products, in addition to spill containment, recycling of residue, employee protection, and water/sewer system protection.

First, he sought answers from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "I found out, much to my dismay, there were no real solutions out there," says Haskett.

Then he consulted with an engineer, leaving that interview overwhelmed by the potential cost of the engineer's services. Discouraged but still hopeful, Fred set out to design and build the new facility on his own. Relying on his small amount of design experience, he wanted to draw up a plan that would:

1 deal with the chemical concerns,

2 keep the project affordable, and

3 offer a fairly permanent solution.

Two years later, by the end of 1986, he had done enough research to decide on a design and a building

During construction, Haskett sought the advice and support of local and state agencies. The city engineer, water and sewer officials, the local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture—all got an oppor-

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LAWN CARE INDUSTRY AUGUST 1990

tunity to see and comment on his plans. And all were suppor-

By early 1987, Greenworld moved into its new facility and Haskett was pleased. It offered safe storage of chemicals, allowed for safe mixing and handling, and allowed recycling of all waste products. It was also affordable.

Because of his wellthought-out chemical control program, he received savings he had not counted on, such as cuts in his insurance premiums and some additional tax credits.

ollowing his experiences in implementing Greenworld's new facility, Fred thought maybe his experience could help other turf care people; it has. He developed a slide show about his facility that he presents at industry functions, while also serving as a consultant for the green industry. He's putting together a book and videotape to address chemical problems and include structural designs that can be modified to any particular company's needs. Haskett's hopeful of finishing this project later this year.

Haskett thinks it's time that industry realizes it must make environmental concerns industry's concerns. "I consider our industry an environmentally aware industry. If we do things right, these things are positive towards the environment."

Equally important, Haskett feels it's important that turf professionals be upfront with their local agencies and communities. The days of keeping a low profile are over, and a community's support is

he Greenworld facility is divided into two major areas, primary containment and secondary containment. The interior of the building is coated with a special sealant, resistant to chemicals. Silicone fills the cracks in the concrete. Each section has self-contained sumps that catch all waste and spilled products so they can be pumped out and recycled.

The primary containment has a six-inch dike surrounding it which can hold up to 1,000 gallons of liquid. All chemical concentrates are handled in this area. This area also contains an eve wash fountain, a shower, and a sink that all drain into a sump, which isolates all chemicals and keeps them from entering the water or sewer system.

The secondary containment area is surrounded by a four-inch dike which can hold up to 3,000 gallons. Daily operations take place in this area where diluted materials are handled. Trucks are parked within this area and dry chemicals, such as fertilizers, are stored here.

The main water lines run over the secondary containment area and have antisiphon devices attached to prevent backflow which could enter the water system. Fred says the system would cost anywhere between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to install, but that's minor expense compared to the cost of a clean-up for a chemical spill-not including, of course, additional costs such as increased insurance premiums, injured business, and a poor image within the community.

Greenworld, founded in 1981, basically began as a oneman residential/chemical lawn care operation which



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A well-thought-out chemical mixing, containment and storage facility can help lower an LCO's insurance payments, reduce pesticide mishaps and fosters a good business image—Fred Haskett, owner Greenworld.

after three years had grown to over 700 accounts.

By late 1983, Greenworld had moved moved into full service care, including verticutting, core aereation and overseeding. In 1984 and 1985, Greenworld began targeting the commercial market. By 1986 it sold off its residential lawn care division to Lawnmark.

Today Greenworld offers full service work in the industrial markets, taking care of the entire outside property from the trees and shrubs to the trimming and edging of sidewalks. It has also expanded into vegetation control for utility companies, including weed and brush control around refineries, oil pumps and tanks, and electrical towers. Greenworld has even expanded into parking lot care to simplify the number of outside contractors a company has to hire to take care of the outside of their facility.

10

About the Author

David Frase is a freelance writer specializing in the green industry. He lives in Alliance, Ohio.

WAR

from page 1

claims concerning the safety of the chemical control tools it uses. These advertising statements mislead the public into thinking that professional lawn treatments are safer than they really are, said the two men. Industry representatives at the hearing broadly disagreed as has ChemLawn, specifically, to Abrams' allegations in the state of New York.

"We didn't make any false or misleading statements," ChemLawn spokesman Stephen A. Hardymon, told Lawn Care Industry magazine. "They were accurate at the time they were made but, essentially, we agreed to quit saying what we'd quit saying a long time ago anyway."

In the June settlement, ChemLawn agreed to pay \$100,000 in costs and is required to present a copy of the settlement agreement to any New York state customer who asks for it. Otherwise, Hardymon, ChemLawn's vp of Environmental Affairs, said neither side was required to concede or admit anything.

For their part, both Chem-Lawn and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA, which represents about 1,000 LCOs) turned a sharper eye to how industry advertises its services. And both sharpened their advertising messages to comply with the more critical standards that government agencies are apparently going to insist upon.

On one front, industry representatives met late in July with officials at both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Trade Commission to hash out just what LCOs can and cannot say—and which governmental agency (FTC or EPA)ultimately is going to police this aspect of the lawn care business.

On another, ChemLawn says it will share its guidelines at the August board meeting of the PLCAA so that member companies can benefit from its experience.

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LAWN CARE INDUSTRY AUGUST 1990



GRASS

from page

similar program in Victoria, Texas, turned out as big a crowd. And when the idea was presented in a suburb of Dallas, city council chambers were so full that over 200 residents were turned away. A program a week later in the same room was again standing room only.

The Don't Bag It program actually began over 10 years ago, mostly in Texas, when Dr. William Knoop, a turfgrass specialist at Texas A&M University, began advising homeowners that they wouldn't have to fertilize so often or have to bother with lugging grass-filled bags around if they only practiced better turf management practices, i.e. if they only mowed a bit more often.

"It's really mostly common sense," Dr. Knoop tells Lawn Care Industry magazine.

Now, fueled by the widely publicized landfill crisis, the idea is spreading across the country like wildfire.

"Yes, I'm pleasantly surprised," says Dr. Knoop from his Dallas home. "All I ever wanted to do was sell the idea of sound turfgrass management, and this was an idea to wrap it around and take it to the public with.

"It's really only caught fire in the last two years, probably because of the landfill closings. It's really a win-win situa-

n fact, Dr. Knoop's program attracted the attention of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) which has, with Dr. Knoop's blessings, initiated its own Grasscycling program targeted at this nation's LCOs. These same lawn professionals can then help take this positive information to the public.

And what can they tell their clients: that the public can become partners with lawn professionals in bettering the

Learn why LCOs should encourage Grasscycling to customers on page 24 I'm pleasantly surprised. All I ever wanted to do was sell the idea of sound turfgrass management—Dr. Bill Knoop, "Don't Bag It" originator.

environment.

PLCAA is just now starting to crank up its *Grasscycling* publicity machine, and it hopes to ignite the enthusiasm of this nation's lawn pros.

"This public education program provides a practical solution for eliminating millions of tons of grass clippings taking up valuable space in our municipal landfills," says PLCAA's

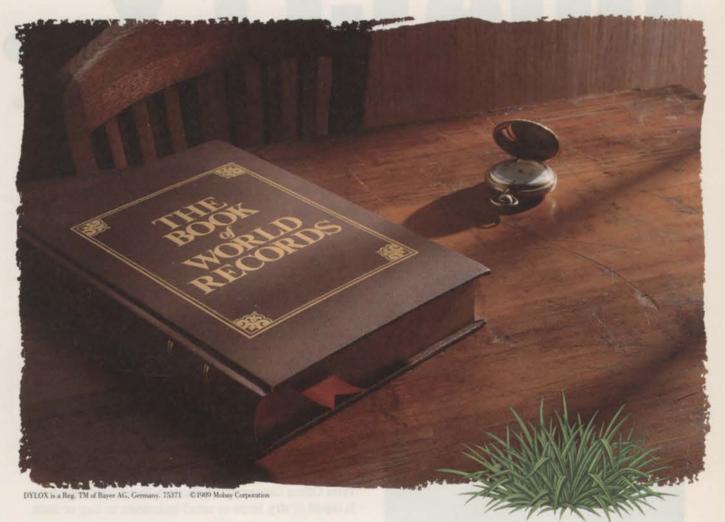
Sandra H. Marting. "At least 10 states have less than five years of landfill capacity and 14 others have less than 10 years of usable landfill space."

Adds extension agent Hansen, "turf care experts never advocated bagging of grass clippings. Golf courses don't bag clippings and neither do athletic field caretakers. It isn't necessary." LCI



Extension Agent Keith Hansen, Nueces County Texas, drew a full house in Corpus Christi with Dr. Knoop's "Don't Bag It" presentation. The public likes grass "recycling".

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Owners should plan for the envitable—their exit from the business

Will your firm survive when you're gone?

BY ROBERT E. ANDREWS

ill your business survive without you? This is probably one of the most important questions facing any small business owner, but it's rarely asked. Is the subject too delicate? Are business owners afraid of the answer?

There's really no reason not to ask this question because every owner of every small business will, someday, leave

their business. It's inevitable, therefore there's no reason not to plan for it. In fact, every owner *must* plan for this reality.

The small business owner, more often than not, is the business. He or she started it, built it, diversified it, risked their financial security on it, and spend most of their waking hours working in it. No matter how big their business gets, the organizational structure resembles an umbrella,

with everyone reporting to the very top. These small businesses are so focused in their knowledge, ability, and authority that the absence of the owner, even for a short period, throws everything in a tailspin. Should that absence become permanent, the business itself probably will not survive.

Given the amount of blood, sweat and tears that you have put in your business, wouldn't it be a tragedy

to see it fail simply because you did not try to plan your withdrawal from it? It's a common mistake for a lot of us to look at our business as ourselves. It becomes more than a job or a company. It's our child. Yet one of the best things we can recognize as its parent, is the obligation we have to see to it, that the business survives beyond our active involvement in it.

Every one of us will leave our business in one of five wave

1 We'll sell.

2 We'll pass it to a family member.

3 We'll create management that will operate it for us.

4 We'll liquidate the assets and move on to other endeavors.

5 We'll go bankrupt.

As owners, we have an obligation to make sure that the final two options don't occur. We want one of the first three "exit" options to take place. But first, we must determine what we have to change in our business to make this happen. How can



The absence of the owner, even for a short period of time, throws everything into a tailspin—Robert E. Andrews, LCO and consultant.

we develop other people in our business so that the knowledge and responsibility is more balanced? What practices and procedures must be put in place so that certain parts of the operation can run on automatic pilot? How can we change so that we have a "life" beyond or outside of our business?

oo often we spend all of our time working in those parts of our business which we enjoy or are good at. They're our strengths. But if we don't pay attention to all parts of our business, they'll become our weaknesses and will limit our ability to meet the succession crisis when it comes.

It's also important for us to remember that poor health or retirement are not the only reasons for succession to occur. You may set, as a goal, the development of your business to where you sell out to a larger firm. You may find a better opportunity. Major changes in the industry might occur which in turn change your

See FIRM on page 13

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Surface feeders cause major lawn damage but can be managed by IPM

here's an insidious problem lurking in the thatch of home lawns from Maine to California—surface feeders.

"Surface feeders can be a serious problem because the damage they cause often is misdiagnosed as drought stress or disease," says Dr. David Shetlar, extension land-scape entomologist at The Ohio State University. "An incorrect diagnosis delays proper treatment, which can lead to severe turf damage."

As the name implies, surface feeders spend most of their time above ground, feeding on grass plants. Surface feeders usually aren't as damaging as soil-dwelling insects, but if left unchecked they can devastate a home lawn.

The list of surface feeders is extensive. The most common are:

- Chinch bugs—"hairy" in the North and transition zones, "southern" in the South. These are the most common and damaging surface feeder;
- Sod webworm—a dozen species of this pest attack northern turfgrasses;
- Cutworm—several species cause damage, usually on golf courses.
- Billbug—an unusual pest, the billbug is a surface feeder as an adult and a soildweller as a larva.
- Several others—armyworms, spittlebugs, greenbugs, winter grain mites, clover mites and tropical sod webworms.

Several insects that most people wouldn't consider surface feeders fall into the category as well. These include fleas, ticks, fire ants (which are both soil and surface dwellers) and mole crickets. There are even "new" surface feeders. Bluegrass scale hasn't re-

FIRM

from page 12

mind about the business. Your company may grow beyond your ability to manage it. Crisis in your personal life may translate into crisis in your business. In any event, you need to be prepared.

"How will I successfully get out of my business?" This question must be asked by the business owner. And it must be answered. You as the owner have an obligation to do so—for the sake of your family, your employees, your customers and your creditors. LCI About the Author

Robert E. Andrews of Robert E. Andrews and Associates,

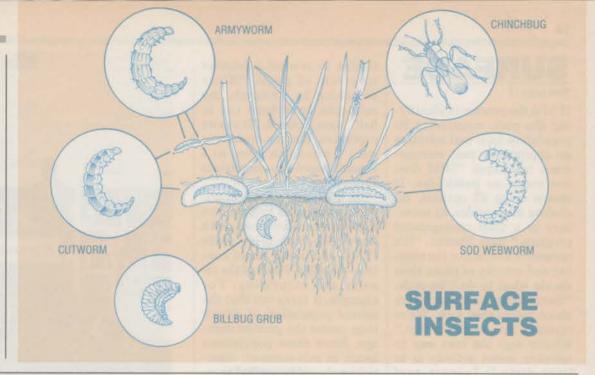
Carmel, IN, will be conducting a series of business seminars for LCOs this winter.

ceived much publicity, but it's spreading south from Canada. European crane flies and Australian sod flies are causing problems on the West Coast.

And Rhodesgrass mealybugs and Bermudagrass scale feed on southern turf.

ccording to Shetlar, integrated pest management (IPM) is the key to controlling surface feeders.

See SURFACE on page 14



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SURFACE

from page 13

IPM is the process of identifying the pest, monitoring its population level and selecting an appropriate pest management technique. "IPM does not mean no pesticides. It means using all options, including insecticides, as necessary in a total management program," says Shetlar. "It's necessary to monitor the number and activity of pests, then decide what to do," he adds. "Some lawn care operators shoot before they look. We're trying to get away from that." Shetlar says the best way to monitor insect activity is to "get dirty." Inspect turf closely, on your hands and knees. If you can find chinch bugs easily, for example, you've likely got a problem.

Other methods for monitoring population levels may not be practical for busy lawn care operators. For example, it takes several minutes to perform the standard sod webworm test, where soapy water is poured on a small area of turf. "Applicators just don't have time to wait 10 minutes on every lawn to see how many sod webworms come to the surface," says Shetlar.

If, after monitoring the surface feeders, an insecticide application is in order, several factors should be kept in mind. "The main reason lawn care operators have to retreat lawns is the insecticide didn't reach the level where it will be most effective," says Randy Howard, owner of Lawn Keeper, Fruitland, ID. "With surface feeders, it's important to make sure the insecticide gets to where the insects feed." Howard uses IPM methods to control his primary insect problems: sod webworms and billbugs. He switched insec-

ticides to control a broader spectrum of pests. "Since switching to Triumph, my callbacks have been cut in half," says Howard. "It's more expensive, but my customers want a top-notch lawn, so I haven't heard any complaints about price."

In addition to field experience, research is helping arm lawn care professionals with knowledge that helps make IPM-and better insect control-a reality. Some of the results are surprising. For example, it turns out that the second population of chinch bugs causes the greatest damage. Since these populations hatch in mid-summer, insecticides should be applied then. Earlier research suggested differently, so it was assumed that insecticides had to be applied early in the spring to control chinch bugs.

The billbug is another surprising surface feeder. For years LCOs assumed a fourto-five week "window" for applications to be most effective. Actually, adults are active early in the spring, and the true "window" for applications is seven to 10 weeks.

These examples show what research can do for the lawn care industry. Together with practical experience, it can help professionals protect turf from surface feeders.

Keller, STMA's new director

LAS VEGAS, NV—The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) named Dale F. Keller, Jr., its executive director. He replaces Mark Hodnik.

Association headquarters mailing address: P.O. Box 98056, Las Vegas, NV 89193. Telephone: 702/739-8052. LCI





DowElanco Chief Executive Officer John Hagaman (above and center, with shovel) and other officials broke ground for the 520,000 square foot research facility at what is planned to be the company's world headquarters just outside of Indianapolis. Hagaman said the complex will consist of the research facility, a 200,000 square foot administration building and a 90,000 square foot employee development center that will employ 800 by its completion. Hagaman is flanked by Indiana Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon (left) and Indianapolis Mayor William

WMI: public wants more regs; only pros should get products

OAK BROOK, IL—The public wants more government regulation of professional pest control. So says a survey commissioned by WMI Urban Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc.

The survey of 1,000 households by Bruskin Associates, New Brunswick, NJ, found:

• More than 86% of respondents feel that more rigid testing and licensing for pest control technicians was either

"extremely" or "very" important.

• More than 78% feel that chemicals used by technicians should be restricted to their use and shouldn't be available to the public through retail stores.

• Almost nine out of 10 respondents think it's "very important" that public places use professional pest control services to protect the health of all who visit those places.

"This survey has direct implications to the lawn care industry," WMI's Don O'Toole, told Lawn Care Industry magazine. "I think it seems to indicate that many people feel very strongly that certain chemicals and control products should be limited to the professional operator. I think that's good news to the industry."

WMI Urban Services has gone on record since entering the pest control and lawn care industries several years ago that it advocates new or enhanced regulation for:

 Applicator certification and training.

 Expansion of the list of pesticides available for application exclusively by certified pest control operators.

 Uniform worker safety and health standards for applicators of pest control products.

• Facility environmental design standards and requirements for the proper storage and handling of chemical control products.

• Requirements that both applicators and retailers of pest control products provide customers, upon request, with information regarding the brand and common name of all products used, the reason for the use of each product, and the amount of active ingredients in end-use product and any special instructions appearing on the product label.

 Prompt registration of new pest control products and registration of existing ones.



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14. Price per acre

PRICING MODEL FOR 7,000 SQUARE FEET

1. Income per route per day. Add lines 2 & 3	\$873.00
2. Materials costs at \$1.00/1000 square feet	\$153
3. Revenue/day to cover all costs, except	
material	\$720.00
4. Time available/day:8 hrs × 60 mins/hr	480 MIN
5. Cost/min:\$720 divided by 480 mins	\$1.50/MIN
6. Average travel time	15 MIN
7. Average production time @ 1000 sq ft/mir	7 MIN
8. Total time per stop:15 min + 7 min	22 MIN
9. Stops per day:480 min/22 min	21.8 EA
10. Cost per stop without material: 22 min × \$1	.50 \$33.00
11. Material cost/stop:7000 sq ft × \$1000 sq	ft \$7.00
12. Price for average 7000 sq ft property per s	stop \$40.00
13 Price per 1000 en ft	\$5.72

\$249.20

Hone your custom pricing skills

BY PHILIP CHRISTIAN

arge residential or commercial properties that don't fit existing production methods, delivery systems, routes, or price sheets must be custom priced.

Under-price and you lose profits. Over-price and you lose jobs and credibility.

Property owners/managers may demand modified programs with special emphasis on certain parts of the property. You'll need quick, easy and flexible custom pricing capabilities. Certainly, however, your pricing must be as accurate as your standard pro-

gram.

Does the model, at left, fit properties that are much larger than 7,000 square feet? Can the model be used as a basis for custom pricing?

Consider. A customer asked a price for five applications of your standard program over a nine-acre property. Using the constants (those in bold print) in the pricing model, calculate the price-per-round for the nine acre property. What's your "quick and dirty" price?

If you multiplied nine acres times line 14, and applied a rule-of-thumb discount, you probably priced the property at \$1,500 to \$2,000 per round. This, however, ignores the basics of using the price model.

Holding lines 3, 4, 6, 7, and 11 constant, calculate the price for the nine-acre property using the same methods, material, and equipment. First, separate material. Using line 11, material is priced at \$1 per 1,000 square feet or \$43.56 an acre. Hold that material acre price until all other costs are calculated, then add them together.

t a production rate of 1,000 square feet per minute, as shown on line 7, it would require 43.56 minutes to produce one acre. One acre produced at \$1.50 per minute would equal \$65.34 per acre.

acre.

= Material price per acre \$43.56

= All other cost per acre (\$1.50 x 43.56) \$64.34

= or \$108.90/acre

= \$108.90/acre x 9 acres \$980.10

= Round trip: 30 min x \$1.50/min \$45.00

= Extra fill-up round trip: 60 min x \$1.50/min \$90.00

= TOTAL \$1115.00

= \$123.88 per acre or \$2.84 per 1,000 square feet

If the model is accurate, why the big difference? Let's test each constant shown in bold print. Do they fit the nine-acre property?

The \$720.00 in line 3 is income required to cover all costs except material. There could be some operation pluses and minuses, but generally the income shown should be the same for a 21-stop route or an all-day stop at one property.

We held the 8-hour work day constant. That preserved the \$1.50-per-minute income stream.

Travel time, as shown in line 6, remains 15 minutes, but on an all-day job we charge travel time both ways. Travel time is a separate calculation in custom pricing so we can use the actual travel time when needed. We also added 60 minutes to refill the tanker. This could be omitted on smaller properties.

ine 7 is the production rate on 1000 square feet per minute. That equals 60,000 square feet per hour or 1.37 acres per hour. Working on the same property all day does offer opportunity to increase production in square feet per hour. There are also off-setting conditions such as the fatigue factor, and the number of pulls required per acre. Production at 1000 square feet per minute seems conservative, but safe. To increase or decrease the production substantially would require individual tests by the



LCOs

A pricing model can be helpful on any size property as long as material is separated. Material costs are proportional to the area; all other costs are time related.

What if eight of the nine acres were flat and open with few obstructions? You might choose to use a more productive delivery system than the tanker or push spreader. If you chose a tractor mounted occilating spreader, how would the price or profit change?

Material costs would remain the same at \$43.56 per

acre or \$392 for nine acres.

One acre would also cost the same at \$64.35, but eight acres would change. A typical tractor-mounted applicator would increase production from 1.37 acres per hour to 6 acres per hour. The 8 acres could be produced in 1.33 hours or 80 minutes. Eighty minutes x \$1.50 per minutes equals \$120.00 for all other costs.

- = Material for 9 acres \$392.00
- = Application costs for 1 acre with standard method \$65.34
 - = Application costs for 8

acres with tractor-mounted spreader \$120

- = Tractor & spreader rent: ½ day minimum \$150.00
- = Travel time—round trip: 30 minutes \$45
 - = \$85.81 per acre

= \$1.97 per 1000 square feet The ability to quickly and accurately price any landscape activity will be a valuable skill in the 90s.

About the Author

Philip D. Christian III of Alpharetta, GA, is a consultant with All-Green Management Associates, in Columbus, Ohio



A step up

The California Landscape Contractors Association recently purchased and moved its headquarters to this 80-year-old remodeled Victorian at 2021 N St., Sacramento. The association also bought the smaller building on the right and is leasing its office space. The organization had outgrown its old location at 2226 K St.

LCOs test mini-bulk deliveries

INDIANAPOLIS, IN— DowElanco is testing a delivery system to eliminate container disposal problems for lawn care professionals.

Some LCOs in Ohio and Michigan recently began receiving the company's Turflon II Amne herbicide in 200-gallon, mini-bulk portable tanks which are delivered and picked up from LCOs by an authorized distributor.

Says Rick Dyer, market manager for Barefoot Grass Lawn Service, Detroit; "We're eager to try the mini-bulk tank because we...had so many 55gallon drums setting around."

After delivery of the minibulk tank, it's placed on pallets so it sits 18 inches off the ground. The herbicide can then be discharged out of the bottom of the tank at a rate of five gallons per minute.

"Drum disposal is no longer a concern since we started testing this delivery system," says Steve Leisring, vice president of operations for Greenlon, Cincinnati. Leisring says the mini-bulk tanks are a practical solution to waste disposal problems and triple rinsing

Dave Maurer, DowElanco product marketing manager, says his company hopes to expand the delivery system to other products. LCI

Crusade 5G is being tested

WILMINGTON, DE—ICI Americas Professional Products says its new granular insecticide, Crusade® 5G, is being tested by golf course superintendents.

Under the management of Lebanon Chemical Corporation, Lesco, Inc. and Van Waters and Rogers, 40 lbs. of the product are being given to each cooperator to test its effectiveness against turf insects. Greg Gergen, product manager for Crusade, says the product should be available for the 1991 season.

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Some magazines, we're sorry to say, keep their readers undercover. They steadfastly refuse to let BPA (Business Publications Audit of Circulation, Inc.) or any other independent, not-for-profit organization audit their circulation records.

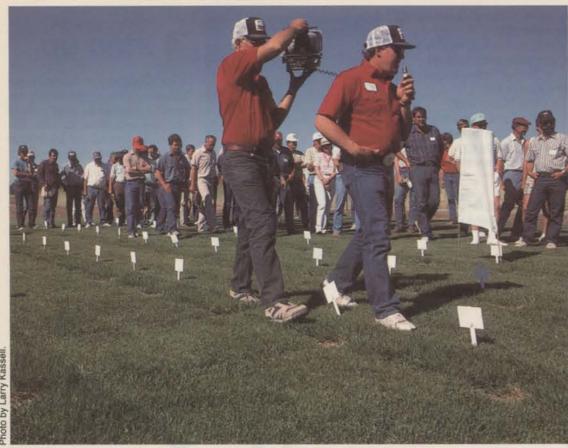
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Dr. Bill Meyer said dwarf grasses becoming more important in tour of plots at Turf-Seed.

The "Turfseed" people

PACIFIC NORTHWEST-For a couple of weeks, usually about mid June, the "seed people" here catch their breaths-and wait. They've seen this so many seasons before-ripen-

from spring green to yellow, a | yellow that when the sun slips over the horizon about 10 p.m. or thereabouts settles into a deepening bronze.

Harvest isn't too many ing fields of turfgrass turning | weeks away-first one variety, then another-and, providing the rains don't come and ruin the harvest, the farmers and the big seed houses that have contracted with them have a pretty good idea how the crop will be.

By mid June of this year the 1990 crop in Oregon and Washington (where much of the world's quality grass seed is grown) looked good, real good.

Lawn Care Industry magazine will detail the harvest and the turfseed industry's newest researchand what it all means to LCOsin its September edition. Look for it.



Steve Johnson (I.) and Steve Witten direct the aggressive turf breeding program for International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, OR.



Arden Jacklin, co-founder Jacklin Seed Company (I. to r.) with Drs. Joe M. Duich, Penn State, and Doug Brede, Jacklin.

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Seed Research's Mike Robinson (I.) extolled hard fescues with (I. to r.) Will Perry Landscape Management magazine, Dr. Leah Brillman, Bob Mierow Lawn Care Industry magazine, and Steve Poitras. Brillman and Poitras are with Seed Research.

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People



Dr. Jerry Pepin, Pickseed West, spoke of field burning issue.



Dr. Fred Ledeboer, Turf Merchants, touted new dwarf turf varieties.

Lesco, Inc. records best quarter ever

CLEVELAND, OHIO-Lesco, Inc. reported the best quarter in its history-sales of \$34,853,400. Earnings rose to \$1,888,600, or 46 cents a share in the quarter ending May 31, 1990, more than double the year-ago second quarter earnings.

James I. FitzGibbon, chairman and chief executive officer, said: "Most of our product lines contributed to the gains for this year's second quarter and first half with our business operating at a more traditional level than last year."

FitzGibbon said the second quarter is traditionally one of the best periods of the year because of customer purchasing patterns which are based on regional weather conditions. In the first half Lesco had sales of \$50,849,400.



Jacklin Seed researcher Virginia Kanickaberg said uses for primed seed are growing.

OPARR seeks special fund

columbus, onio-The Ohio Pesticide Applicators for Responsible Regulation (OPARR) has been pushing for legislation to increase registration fees for all pestitices to fund research and training programs for users.

Under OPARR's proposal, an annual fee of \$50 would be required for each product name and brand registered to a company and an additional \$75 fee for each pesticide product registered to be put into the state pesticide and fertil-





A turf-free area around a tree solves many problems.

Turf near trees may lead to grass care headaches

BY STEVEN J. DAY

e take for granted turfgrass near and under a variety of trees. Why not? They seem to coexist so well?

The answer is fundamental. We're stewards of the landscape environment, and it's our responsibility to provide for healthy growth and development of both turf and trees. You can't single out or ignore one without affecting the other.

In a natural situation, trees and turf are rarely found thriving in the same area at the same time, because they compete for available water and elements for growth. There are also spatial considerations, growth inhibiting chemical interactions among roots of different plants (allelopathy), and other biological factors.

Some researchers observe

an inhibition of tree root development or overall decrease in growth rate of trees grown in turfgrass, especially young trees. Other studies show improved root development of trees if mulch is placed around the base when the tree is young, instead of planting it where the roots are surrounded or covered by sod. We also know the yields of fruit trees drop if sod surrounds

But trees and turf can coexist harmoniously in a landscape, and landscape managers should be willing and able to manipulate the cultural environment to allow for healthy growth of each.

For example, in sod, especially high-water-demanding bluegrass sod, trees adapted to low-water conditions should not be planted: Russian olive, ponderosa and pinyon pines and junipers. Trees that generally tolerate greater amounts of water—trees in the Populus genus, maples, birches, ashes and lindens—will usually do better in turfgrass.

o keep bluegrass green and thick requires more water and nitrogen fertilizer than many trees require in the same site. This presents a compatibility problem for most pines, firs, and other trees where fast growth compromises structural integrity and vitality. Roots often grow very close to or poke through the soil surface, making mowing difficult and hazardous. Also, people don't like to wrench ankles on tree roots and trees don't like to have their roots butchered, torn out or chemically treated.

Arguably, the most controversial aspect of tree and turf compatibility is with the use of herbicides. Just because tree roots are out of sight doesn't guarantee against herbicide uptake from repeated or excessive applications in turf. A selective broadleaf herbicide for use on turfgrass is not selectively uptaken or metabolized by tree roots. In fact, common systemic herbicides such as 2,4-D and dicamba are known to be absorbed and translocated by trees. Injury that can result may be apparent within days or injury can be insidious, accumulating over weeks and months, even year to year in certain herbicide/soil persistence problems. Lethal "accidents" have occurred to trees from turf-applied selective broadleaf herbicides, whether uptake occurs through roots, stems or leaves.

Another important occurrence affecting the healthy coexistence of turfgrass and trees is the physical scuffing,

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tearing and bruising of lower bark and wood tissues on trees by mowers and line trimmers. Lawnmowers are the most injury threat to trees. The breakdown of stem tissues over time, perhaps years, can be lethal or lead to internal decay. The solution is easy: remove or kill grass around the base of trees.

It's probably best to maintain a four-foot-diameter turffree circle at a tree's base. If your client doesn't like to see bare ground or dead areas around the base of trees, place a few inches of mulch over the area. Just about any decorative landscape material is better than allowing turfgrass to grow right up to the trunks of trees.

As landscape managers we must educate ourselves as to the different cultural requirements of trees and turfgrass. There is no reason why the proper trees and turf can't coexist in harmony for decades. If a tree can survive the first five years after being planted in turfgrass, it stands a pretty good chance of long-term survival.

e should educate our customers about the importance of removing turf around tree bases, providing a cultural environment compatible with turf and trees, assessing the impacts of herbicide overuse in turf (especially multiple broadcast applications of broadleaf herbicides), and proper planting of trees in turf to prevent water reservoirs from developing around the base of trees.

Proper installation of irrigation systems is another area critical to the health of trees and turf. Trenching through turfgrass roots is one thing;

LCOs to get Cutless soon

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—LCOs may be getting Cutless 50W plant growth regulator in the near future, says a release from DowElanco Specialty Products.

The product was first introduced for use on golf courses, but once application techniques are refined it will be offered to LCOs, says the company which claims the product's use will reduce the need for mowing, produce fewer clippings, and reduce turfgrass water use.

DowElanco says Cutless is a "type II" plant growth regulation which means it suppresses vertical turf growth but has little effect on other processes such as seedhead development. LCI

> Questions about Pesticides? Call 1-800-858-7378 National Pesticide Telecommunications Network

trenching through tree roots is an entirely different thing. Tree roots are competing directly with turfgrass roots for space, water and elements.

It's a myth that tree roots, especially the non-woody type, grow where they are out of reach to a trencher used in system installations. Trenching kills roots. Plan trenching so that minimal injury occurs to tree roots. Where possible, trench at a radius to the tree trunk, not on a tangent; fewer large tree roots will be severed. Where possible, trench as close to existing borders as

possible, such as sidewalks, driveways and fencelines. Where possible, use larger or different types of irrigation materials to minimize the need for additional trenching and line to be installed.

Consider boring under large diameter tree roots instead of cutting through them. When 1/2-inch diameter and larger tree roots are severed, cut the ends cleanly back to the soil interface and don't paint them with anything. Just as with stems, cut back roots to laterals where possible. This will help prevent root rot and fur-

ther decline.

Finally, compacted soil is bad for turf roots and it's also bad for tree roots. Tree varieties that withstand soil compaction have not been developed as have several turf grass varieties. There's no such thing as a "tough-wearing" tree in the context that we consider "tough-wearing" turfgrass. Effects of soil compaction on tree root development and overall tree vitality may take years to manifest themselves.

The things we do to turf show up a lot sooner than the

things we do to trees. Turf managers who satisfy their clients because they're doing the right things for both trees and turf are going to be successful.

Yes, trees and turf can coexist in harmony.

About the Author

Steven J. Day is a consultant to the green industry. He operates LANDSCAPES plus, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033.



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NEW PRODUCTS



Feldmann's hydro-auger kit makes drilling easy The new hydro-auger mates to

the Feldmann earth auger powerhead using a section of 3/4-inch piple, and the sockethead set screw. Hydro drilling is easy in soft, wet soil because the erosion principle moves earth together with mechanical drilling. The hydroauger kit 2482 includes one 2inch carbide-tipped bit, the driver coupler with adapter and regulating valve with hose connection.

The kit used with the Feldmann powerhead eliminates the necessity of trenching through lawns and across streets with the expense of refilling, repaying, etc.

Circle No. 140 on service card.

Eliminate problems with new soil fumigant

Lesco, Inc.'s, Soil Prep is a non-selective, non-permanent soil fumigant for broad-spectrum pest control. It eliminates competition from weeds, germinating weed seeds, fungi, insects and nematodes, resulting in bigger and better ornamentals and increased

Soil Prep is a water-soluble liquid that is mixed with water and requires no agitation. It can be applied with either a sprinkling can or hose-end sprayer.

It's ideal for use on lawns

prior to reseeding, in gardens, fencerows, greenhouses and nursery beds, says Lesco. LCI Circle No. 141 on service card.



O.M. Scott unveils starter fertilizer

O.M. Scott & Sons Company says its Proturf 16-24-12 Turf Starter Fertilizer promotes vigorous seedling development and root growth in new seedings. Turf Starter may be dragged into the top 1/4 inch of soil with the seed, or applied prior to overseeding.

Circle No. 142 on service card.



New skid-mounted Finn hydroseeder fast, easy

The 300-gallon capacity TL30 Hydroseeder is powered by a Briggs and Stratton 18-hp Twin II gas engine. The TL30 has a centrifugal pump and both a mechanical paddle agitator and liquid recirculation for fast and easy mixing of seed, fertilizer and fiber mulch. A variety of options are available.

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3 Don't cause thatch problems. Returning clippings contributes only .03 inch to the thatch layer each year.

4 Won't damage lawns. Mow regularly and at the proper height to avoid too many clippings on the lawn.

5 Doesn't spread lawn diseases. Watering, fertilizing and sharpness of the mower blade have a greater influence on the occurrence of disease.

6 All lawnmowers can grasscycle. Keep your mower sharp and mow when the grass is dry.

7 Collecting clippings is becoming more expensive. Grasscycling eliminates any fees associated with disposal of clippings.

Top Texas turfers gather

DALLAS, TX-The presidents of six Texas turf-related associations are on the program of the Texas Turfgrass Field Day at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center here Aug. 15-16.

They'll join four academic representatives for a Aug. 15 afternoon presentation at 17360 Coit Road.

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TRAINING

from page 1

agreed among themselves that they will allow the evolution of the model program according to the wishes of the committee. And that they, as suppliers, will not seek any advertising or marketing coups because of their support of the effort.

"Eventually there's going to be some major changes in the way pesticide-using businesses operate," says PLCAA's Tom Delaney, including government-mandated training for lawn care technicians.

In fact, a three-tier process for anyone using restricted use pesticides (RUPs) is being considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The updating of part 171 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) would establish the following three product categories:

1 Products that can be applied by a technician "under the direct supervision" of a certified applicator.



Troutman is LCI advisor

CLEVELAND, OHIO—Dr. Barry Troutman has agreed to serve on the Lawn Care Industry magazine editorial advisory board. He joins Marty Erbaugh, Erbaugh Corp., Peninsula, Ohio; Jack Robertson, Robertson Lawn Care, Springfield, IL; and Dr. A.J. Powell, the University of Kentucky.

Troutman recently joined Green Up Lawn Care (a part of Massey Services), Orlando, FL. He was formerly the education director of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) and also owner/operator of Turf and Ornamental Technology, a market consulting firm for turfgrass managers.

A former president of The Georgia Turfgrass Foundation, Inc., Troutman received his B.S. degree from The Ohio State University, an M.S. in Turfgrass Management from the University of Rhode Island, and a Ph. D. in Turfgrass Weed Science from the University of Arkansas. He began his professional turfgrass career with ChemLawn.

2 Products that can only be applied by a certified applicator.

3 Products that can be applied by a technician provided a certified applicator can be summoned to the site "in a short period of time."

Presently, LCOs use very few RUPs, but that's small reason to dismiss the considerations in Washington, D.C., because it's likely EPA will expand the list of RUPs as the result of additional studies, particularly groundwater studies, Delaney tells Lawn Care Industry magazine.

Even more regulations

Also, Senator Richard G. Luger (R-IN) is pushing Senate Bill 2490, the Pesticide Safety Improvement Act of

It's obvious our industry is going to have to become more sophisticated— Thomas Delaney, PLCAA

1990, also addressing technician training. One provision in this proposal establishes training criteria, including setting guidelines for trainers themselves.

"It's obvious our industry is going to have to become more sophisticated because it's going to be a tougher business to be in," says Delaney.

Bonnie Poli says the Curriculum Committee hopes to have the outline of the model program done by early fall. Several additional months will then probably be needed as the outline is reviewed and scru-

tinized by both private and public agencies and representatives.

Hopefully then somebody will come forward with a proposal to take the outline and distill it into a practical training program, including a manuel, videotapes and other supporting material.

(A similar training program for highway right-of-way applicators is well underway at Purdue University.) LCI



Texas researcher says treated seed a good investment

In the favorable climatic conditions of spring and fall, you can practically watch newly seeded turfgrasses grow. What you can't see—but can prepare for—soilborne fungi attacking unprotected seeds and tender emerging roots.

Delayed germination and blighted stands can be avoided by planting seed treated with fungicides and by maintaining a careful watering program, says Dr. Phillip Colbaugh, a research plant pathologist at Texas A&M's Agricultural Experiment Station in Dallas.

Colbaugh recently completed a series of laboratory and field trials in which seedling growth and pythium blight disease control were evaluated on turfgrass seeds treated with a combination of commercial fungicides. The resulting data showed average stand counts were enhanced, and the incidence of infection diminished when seeds were treated with a fungicide mixture.

The tests were on perennial ryegrass, fine fescue, tall fescue and two Kentucky bluegrasses supplied by Gustafson, Inc., Plano, TX.

The study he conducted with assistant Tom McAfee also showed that treated varieties emerged more quickly (with the exception of the inherently slow germinating bluegrasses), and produced stands 20-90 percent fuller than untreated varieties.

"Pythium and other soilborne diseases, like Rhizoctonia and fusarium, lurk in almost every soil that benefits from regular watering and fertilization," says Colbaugh.

Ironically, market estimates indicate that less than 25 percent of the overseed turfgrasses use a seed treatment for disease control.

"I just don't think enough growers realize the economics of planting treated seed," says Colbaugh. "It's like term insurance. You get 30 days of protection while those new roots are getting established and a good stand started."

A good example is perennial ryegrass, which, treated with a primary fungicide costs only about four cents more per pound, or 16 cents per 1,000 square feet, say commercial suppliers in the Pacific Northwest.

Many disease problems affecting turfgrass seedlings are generically described as "damping off," a disease complex that can be caused by one of several pathogens in the soil. Pythium, however, is the most common culprit.

Especially vulnerable are turfgrasses sown at an excessive rate, because the emerging seedlings already will be weakened from having to compete for light and nutrients.

Colbaugh says seeding dates for overseeded grasses are critical in determining the level of threat from disease. If fall seeding dates are too early, soil temperatures are warmer and favor the growth of several pythium species that will invade tender seedlings. Too early in the spring, and you risk the stunting effects of

"Those ideal planting windows are small, and if you plant outside of them, you tip the balance in favor of fungi," warns Colbaugh.

Texas A&M's test plots were seeded on October 20, 1989 with 10 lbs. of selected varieties per 1,000 square feet. Six chemical treatment combinations were used on the five test grasses. LCI

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