SPORTS MANIA...Charlie Racusin of Environmental Landscape Services, Houston, is a sports nut. But he’s also a good businessman. The result? A booming landscape company and plenty of tickets to athletic events. Racusin, besides taking in the games themselves, gives out freebie tickets to his best clients. For instance, last fall, he bought 42 tickets to each of the Houston Astros’ NL Playoff Series games against the New York Mets. “There’s not a week that goes by that we don’t give a client something for free,” Racusin reports. And it apparently works.

CHARGE IT...Landscape managers will soon be able to purchase equipment by whipping a piece of plastic out of their back pocket and saying “charge it.” Bob Brophy, new landscape product manager at Cushman Ryan, says the company might be instituting a credit card program for the green industry. The credit cards could be used for any line of Cushman equipment.

FUTURE SHOCK...A system being developed by Electrofac Corp., Kansas City, Mo., could add a new dimension to the battle against insects: electrocution. The system, which fries insects without toasting leaves, is possible because most plants can shrug off enough electricity to get rid of the pests. A diesel-powered generator moves through fields, carrying a tunnel of charged metal plates over rows of plants. A current moves through the plant when the leaf touches the metal, killing insects on the plant and in the earth near the roots.

PESTICIDE PICTURE SHOW...A video series teaching landscape pesticide safety has been developed by Idea Bank for employees of organizations handling landscape chemicals. The two videos in the series, entitled “Working With Pesticides,” deal with in-field safety and meeting OSHA requirements for handling hazardous substances. Cost is $149.95 postage paid. Contact The Idea Bank (800) 621-1136. In Arizona, call (602) 829-1233. By mail, send payment or purchase order to The Idea Bank, Pesticide Videos, 1000 E. Apache Blvd., Suite 211, Tempe, AZ 85281.

COLOR CALENDAR...Brouwer Turf Equipment is offering a free four-color 1987 year-at-a-glance turfgrass industrial calendar that includes turf industry shows and convention dates. Contact Brouwer at Woodbine Ave., Keswick, Ontario L4P 3E9.

FERTILIZER FRENZY...There’s a movement in the green industry to try to convince fertilizer companies to express pure phosphorous and pure potassium content on the bags. The three numbers on the bag are nitrogen, phosphate and potash. Phosphate and potash are the oxidized forms of phosphorous and potassium, respectively. Dr. Larry Leuthold of Kansas State University says, as things stand now, these conversion formulas must be used: to convert $P_2O_5$ to P multiply by .44; to convert $K_2O$ to K multiply by .83.