Three cheers...

To the editor:
Three cheers for LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT! I read your editorial in the August issue. If we can extract 10 percent of the quality companies in the landscape contracting field (if they will give us a try), I know through the quality programs that our association has, we still retain 50 percent of them on a second-year basis.

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) is one of the best-kept secrets in the green industry. There is a lot more than meets the eye.

Thank you for your recent comment. We really appreciate it.

Robert M. Maronde Jr.
ALCA president
Falls Church, Va.

...And a boo

To the editor:
As a professional in the landscape management field, I highly regard your publication. I have never been offended by any of your ads before, as many can easily be geared toward the male readers.

I was, however, taken aback by the advertisement on page 49 of your August issue. I am sure I speak for many of my female colleagues when I say, “Wake up, the times have changed!”

Professional publications are no place for sexist ads, especially in a field where women represent a growing force. Granted, the advertiser is to blame for implementing antiquated advertising schemes, but it seems your editing department would do a better job of selecting what goes into your magazine.

K. Squares
Golf course horticulturist
Richmond, Va.

Late-season N

To the editor:
I read with interest the August article about late-season fertilization. Its importance has not been emphasized enough as a way to promote shoot, rhizome and stolon growth on cool-season grasses.

The article discussed several nitrogen sources for late-season applications, including quick-release inorganics, slow-release synthetic organics and natural organics such as Ringer’s high-protein meal-based fertilizers. The article stated that using a product such as Ringer’s which relies on microbial activity for N release would be the equivalent of a dormant fertilization.

Research conducted by Dr. Tony Koski at Ohio State and Colorado indicates that using Ringer in a late-season fertilization program enhances turf color and quality later into the season than other N carriers tested. The turf greened up faster in the spring as well.

It appears from Dr. Koski’s work that Ringer’s natural organic product is an effective late-season fertilizer despite dependence on microbial activity.

I look forward to reading more about natural organic management of turf and ornamentals.

P.J. McGinnity, Ph.D.
Ringer Corp.
Minneapolis, Minn.

(Continued on page 11)