On line with LM a ‘net’ gain for many readers

It probably won’t be long before there’s a discussion group for turfgrass on the Internet. It seems like every other subject under the sun is being bantered back and forth in cyberspace.

The only reason that you haven’t read about such computer-based communication systems in LM (until now) is because many of you, we’ve found out, don’t have computers equipped with the modem technology that makes inter-computer communication possible.

This year already, we’ve visited your offices in Spokane, in Houston, in San Francisco and in Washington. We’ve seen computers on your desks nearly everywhere we’ve been. Yet most of them are for billing customers or scheduling irrigation or figuring out job costs.

Four months ago in this space, we wrote: “Try adding a fax/modem to your computer so you can subscribe to information services like those offered by the Turfgrass Information File or the American Society of Landscape Architects.” This month, we’re giving you another reason to add a modem to your computer: so you can “talk” to us.

Beginning immediately, you can send the LM editorial staff letters, comments, opinions and suggestions via the Internet’s e-mail system, which is offered through most online computer services (CompuServe, Prodigy, America Online, etc.).

Our new experimental e-mail address: 75553.502@compuserve.com.

The e-mail system might come in especially handy for:

- Commenting on an article you read in the magazine.
- Asking a question about an article you saw in the magazine. How do I get in touch with that author? Has any research been done on that product?
- Asking a technical question that we can forward to Dr. Bal Rao of “Ask the Expert” fame. What are the most heat tolerant turfgrass species? What herbicides control crabgrass best?
- Requesting information about the industry. How many lawn care companies are there in the country? What is the biggest U.S. landscape company? What is the square footage of the average golf green?
- Requesting information from our annual Buyer’s Guide. Who manufactures landscape florgy tubes? What’s their address and telephone number?
- Finding out more about the books we market. Is there a chapter on containment system design? What are the author’s credentials?

However, please remember that you can still contact us in the standard manner: by writing us a letter, faxing us a letter or note, or phoning us directly.

We hope you’ll take us up on this standing offer. To quote Drs. Venkman, Stantz and Spengler (in “Ghostbusters”): “We are here to serve YOU!”

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