The Great Swami speaks...

It's January, a time of renewed hope and optimism for golf and landscape professionals, and a time when the Great Swami of Strongsville briefly emerges from his long winter hibernation to make his long-awaited prognostications for the coming year.

Opening a recent conversation in a lighter vein, the Great Swami predicts that Chicago Cubs fans will have to wait another year for a National League pennant (though it's probably not so light a vein to Cubbie fans), and all of those Redskin fans in Congress will have to wait at least another year for a winner, too.

So much for The Swam's rock-solid predictions. Here are some others:

- If the Federal Reserve Board doesn't monkey around with interest rates too much this year, Swam says, lawn care companies and landscape contractors will break all sales records.

The Swami sees construction burgeoning from coast to coast in 1995. "But it won't last forever," he hastens to add.

- The USGA will outlaw use of the reviled stimpmeter on golf course greens before the end of the year.

The Swami, an inveterate golfer, doesn't enjoy fast greens, and he doesn't know anybody who does, especially when $75,000 isn't riding on every putt. Greens that stimp at 300 or 400 take all the fun out of the game, he says, and the USGA will finally recognize this.

- At least one National Football League team and at least two major universities with respected football programs will renovate their stadiums, replacing synthetic turf with natural surfaces.

The players don't like plastic grass, the coaches don't like it—even the fans don't like it anymore, administrators will reason, the Swam believes. So why use it?

- Continuing a recent trend, public outcry for more annuals, flowering shrubs and ornamental grasses will leave the nation's nurseries bereft of material for the first time in history.