Bisset Nursery Corporation of Long Island, N.Y., reports it has acquired the Design Imaging Group, developer of landscape imaging software. DIG has developed site plan software for the pool and landscape industries, including three new programs. Bisset, the largest re-wholesaler in the Northeast, was one of DIG’s first customers. Bisset says it brings a successful customer service record to the table, which will fit together nicely with DIG’s qualified technical staff and sales representatives. The program’s inventor, Garry Galpin, remains with the team.

Data Transmission Network Corporation (DTN), an information and communication services company, has acquired all the subscribers of Golf Link. The former Golf Link subscribers have been assimilated into DTN Weather Center which helps turf-related industries plan their work activity by providing them detailed weather information in a timely fashion. Golf Link had more than 450 subscribers to its information system. DTN is headquartered in Omaha.

Century Rain Aid, one of the country’s largest distributors of landscape irrigation equipment, has reached an agreement with Shemin Nurseries, Inc., in which Century will establish product outlets in eight of Shemin’s 14 distribution centers. Shemin’s headquarters is in Danbury, Ct. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Co. Century President Waye Miller says the agreement gives Century’s customers added convenience, and Century benefits from Shemin’s customer traffic.

Encore Manufacturing Co., Beatrice, Neb., was awarded an Outstanding Nebraska Industry Award. The award is presented by The Nebraska Diplomats, an organization of business people from throughout the state who help recruit new and expanding business for the state. Encore was picked for its “continual growth and contributions to economic development.”

Lofts Seed, Inc., has moved its corporate offices from Somers, N.J. to Winston-Salem, N.C. According to company President, Ken Budd, the move gives the company easy access to banking, legal and accounting resources. “It also provides our customers with enhanced customer service, better product value and a more streamlined operation that will help grow their business,” said Budd. Lofts’ New Jersey research facilities and personnel remain in Somerset. Neil R. Myers has been named director of marketing for the seed supplier, which recently gave royalty checks for more than $670,000 to Rutgers University and the University of Rhode Island research programs.

The Toro Company’s two-year or 1500 hours warranty on its entire commercial product line is an industry first, says Toro. Mike Goodwin, manager of Worldwide Service for Toro, says the warranty includes equipment purchased in 1996. The “two-year” warranty will apply to those products not equipped with hour meters. Toro also reports it has completed its buy of the James Hardie Irrigation Group for $119 million. Maruyama and Toro will jointly produce and market hand-held commercial equipment to landscape contractors. Toro CEO Kendrick Melrose called the move, “a significant boost to the company’s growing landscape contractor business.”

Suppliers Corner

Videos and Literature for the Green Industry

All You Need to Know...The Landscape Management Handbook, edited by Dr. Bill Knoop, presents the most current and comprehensive information on the basics of turfgrass and landscape care and management. Knoop, a nationally-known expert on turfgrass science, combines a wealth of practical information with the tried and true basics of management, for a single, practical, affordable and up-to-date text. Both golf course superintendents and students of turfgrass and landscape management alike will find this book to be the only source of its kind, as it features comprehensive information on pertinent topics: soil; plant growth; turfgrass selection; plant nutrition; landscape irrigation; organic lawn care; pesticides; weed/insect/disease management. Knoop served as an extension specialist for 25 years, and has worked in the field with a variety of green industry professionals, from golf course superintendents to parks directors to home owners. This is the ideal reference for both students and green industry professionals.

The Landscape Management Handbook is priced at $34.95, and can be ordered by calling (800) 596-6008.

Comprehensive Estimating Guide...Estimating for Landscape & Irrigation Contractors, by landscape industry consultant James Huston, MBA, contains more than 100 diagrams and illustrations, as it covers the process of pricing maintenance, construction and services projects. Included are five common methods used to price jobs; budgeting, and how to prepare an estimating budget; how to calculate labor burden and average wages; and how to measure, allocate and control overhead costs. The book costs $75, plus UPS 5-day shipping charges. Discount pricing for multiple orders is available. For more information or to order, call (303) 794-9597; fax orders to (800) 451-5494.