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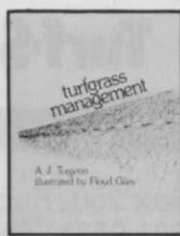
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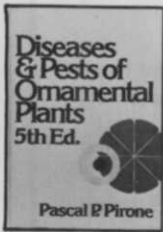


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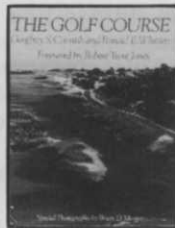
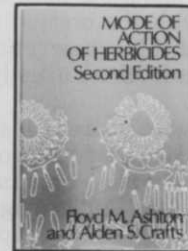
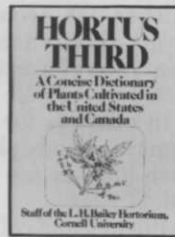
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by Kenneth Horst
This fourth edition offers professionals the latest diagnostic and disease control information. Plant entries designed to simplify diagnosis, plus background on the classification of plant pathogens. This handbook gives a specific description of each disease, susceptible plants, specific symptoms of the disease, reported locations and control measures for each disease and their side effects. **\$39.50**

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by Walter C. Muenscher
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WTT 124

PROBLEM SOLVERS

By Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D

Bark mulch better than stones

Problem: Will the replacement of bark mulch with 1-3/4" stone in shrub beds cause any long-term problems with shrub growth and development? Plantings are made up of mostly pines, yews, junipers, azaleas and rhododendrons. (Maine)

Solution: A review of information relevant to your question indicates there isn't a simple yes or no answer. I've seen stones, pebbles, gravel, and other inorganic materials used as mulch, but I'm more familiar with the organic mulches, i.e., wood and bark chips. My observations are that when rock mulch is used, there usually is a sheet of plastic film beneath it.

The plastic, usually black in color, is for weed control and it may cause problems for woody plants. I often find poor aeration and too little or too much moisture in the underlying soil.

Poorly aerated, wet soil plus the root and collar rot organisms commonly found under such conditions can cause root loss, reduced growth, and/or death of the entire plant. When the rock mulch has been in place for several years it is, in my opinion, not very attractive because weeds and other things grow in or on the litter that accumulates among the stones. I would think it tedious, if not impossible, to remove leaves and decomposing plant material from large beds of rock mulch. With most of the organic mulches such debris simply blends in.

The appearance of bark-mulched beds can be easily improved by a top dressing of fresh material.

Where black plastic isn't used, weeds are a problem. Herbicides often become the only means by which the beds are kept free of these unwanted plants. Repeated contact with herbicides through drift and/or root uptake can injure or kill the desirable plants. When the bed gets a lot of sunlight the rocks store heat; enough heat that they are too hot to handle. Renovation of rock-mulched beds means removing the existing layer of rocks, putting down new plastic, and spreading around new or clean stones.

High temperatures can kill or injure roots and emerging or thin-barked plants. If the rock, stones, pebbles or whatever are of calcareous origin, e.g., limestone, the mulch may reduce soil pH to the point where the pines, junipers, azaleas, rhododendrons, and even the yews suffer from micronutrient deficiencies.

Fungi culprit in fairy ring

Problem: What causes "fairy ring" problems in lawns and how do we get rid of them? (Toronto, Canada)

Solution: Fairy ring problems in lawns can be caused by a number of different fungi belonging to one group - the mushroom family. These fungi grow on buried organic matter such as logs, roots, and

construction materials in the soil.

The fungus growth can become so dense that the soil cannot be wetted and the grass dies from lack of moisture or from a toxic substance released that prevents the growth of the grass. Fungal decomposition of organic matter releases the nitrogen which stimulates adjacent grass to grow greener. This may be quite annoying as some are foul-smelling, a few are poisonous, and all are unsightly on a well-maintained lawn.

The following cultural practices should help to manage or suppress the problem: 1) Regular mowing will remove the mushrooms. Mushrooms may grow back again until the food reserve is used up. Therefore, if desired to prevent this, remove buried organic matter or re-establish turf in clean soil. 2) Or wait until organic matter is used up with the hope that eventually the rings will disappear. 3) Apply water into the soil to a depth of one to two feet at one foot intervals just inside the ring of dead grass with a tree feeding lance or root feeder attachment on a garden hose. Aerating and drenching the soil with a wetting agent will help prevent the development of the zone of brown or dead grass in the area of dense mycelial (thread-like fungal body) growth. Treat when rings appear or whenever grass shows signs of wilting. This is inexpensive, easy, and satisfactory to mask the symptoms. 4) Maintain a good fertility level throughout the year to help mask the stimulated, dark green rings.

5) Avoid applications of organic matter such as manure or mulches as they may stimulate development of the fairy rings. 6) Remove infected soil in the ring to a depth of 18 inches and replace it with fresh, clean soil. This, however, is laborious and expensive.

Although not impossible, the chemical control approach is difficult, laborious and expensive. Some success has been achieved by aerating the soil and drenching the infected area with a fungicide. However, results have been sporadic and generally unsuccessful. Stripping off the sod and fumigating the soil with methyl bromide, or some other fumigant, would provide complete control of fairy ring problems. **WT&T**



Balakrishna Rao is Director of Lawn Care Technical Resources for Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, OH.

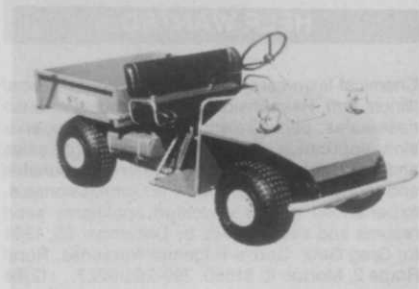
Questions should be mailed to Problem Solver, Weeds Trees & Turf, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.

PRODUCTS

Heald's all-purpose 1/4-ton utility truck

New farm and industrial mini-trucks called Mark Series Haulers are now available from Carl Heald Inc.

The haulers are available in either three or four wheeled models. They are available in kit form or fully assembled through dealers or are available factory direct in kit form. Features are a new lower mainte-



nance, fully enclosed helical gear transaxle which provides forward, neutral, reverse and oil lubrication. An automatic clutch with belt drive torque converter gives infinite drive ratio change from 37.5:1 to 12.5:1.

They are powered by four cycle, heavy duty industrial engines of 10, 11 and 16 horsepower. Other accessories are available.

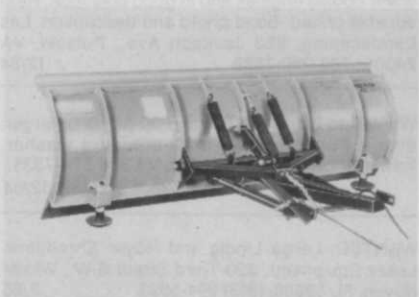
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Western expands Pro-Plow line

The industry's first snowplow with an exclusive shock absorber feature, the Western 8 1/2-foot Pro Plow, has now been joined by a 7 1/2-foot and 8-foot version to complete Western's Pro-Plow line.

The shock absorber provides a smooth forward trip during spring extension and decelerates the return trip speed.

By softening the return, Western engineers have been able to substantially reduce impact loads to blade, trip springs, A-frame, quadrant, mount and the vehicle itself.



Designed for 3/4 and one-ton four wheel drive pickup and utility vehicles, these new Pro-Plows offer all the standard plow features plus 28-inch high rolled-edge blades with carbon 1080 steel cutting edges. Minimum down time is assured by two adjustable, one-inch thick, abrasion-resistant cast ni-hard steel disc shoes.

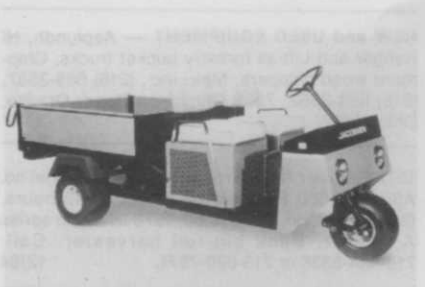
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Jake offers new utility trucks

A new line of utility trucks designed to perform a variety of services has been introduced by the Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc.

The new models are the T1000 with a 1,000 pound capacity and the T2000, with a capacity of up to 2,000 pounds. With attachments, the T2000 performs a variety of turf care tasks in addition to carrying personnel and hauling equipment and materials. The line carries full service and parts support.

The T1000 is a four-wheel truck powered through an automatic-type transmission by a fuel-efficient Jacobsen air-cooled engine that will operate all day on its 6-gallon tank of gas. Riding on a 71-inch wheelbase, with an overall length of 106-inches, the compact machine has a light print of only 8 psi, a desirable feature in turf work.



The T2000 is for more rigorous and varied duty. It is powered by an 18 hp twin-cylinder air-cooled Onan gas engine, moving the three-wheel truck through a three-speed transmission at speeds up to 22 mph. Nearly six hours of continuous use are provided by one 8.5 gallon-tank of gas.

In addition to its 2,000-pound capacity, with 10-ply tires, including operator and passenger, a variety of optional attachments convert the T2000 into a multi-function system machine.

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EVENTS

DECEMBER

Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Dec. 3-6, Cincinnati Convention and Exposition Center. Contact Dr. John Street, OTF, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 422-2601.

Texas Turfgrass Conference, Dec. 10-12, Hilton Hotel and San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, TX. Contact Shirley Duble, Executive Secretary, Texas Turfgrass Association, 3606 Meadow Oaks, Bryan, TX 77802, (409) 846-0360.

JANUARY

23rd annual North Carolina Turfgrass Conference and Exhibit, Jan. 2-4, Sheraton Hotel, Charlotte, NC. Contact W.B. Gilbert, 1119 Williams Hall, Box 7620, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 27695, (919) 737-2657.

GrowerExpo, Jan. 4-6, Chicago Marriott Hotel. Contact Kathy Wootten, GrowerTalks magazine, PO Box 501, West Chicago, IL 60185, (312) 293-5020.

Ohio State Residential Design Landscape Short Course, Jan. 9-11, Advanced Landscape Design. Prerequisite is Course 1. Contact Fred K. Buscher, Northeast Extension Service, OARDC, Wooster, OH 44691.

New Hampshire Turf Conference, Jan. 10-11, Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH. Contact Dr. John Roberts, Cooperative Extension Service, University of New Hampshire, Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH, 03824, (603) 862-1200.

New York State Arborists, ISA Chapter Inc. Annual Convention, Jan. 13-15, Corning Hilton Inn, Corning, NY. Contact New York State Arborists, ISA Chapter, 230 Park Ave, NY, NY.

Mid-Atlantic Nurserymen's Trade Show, Jan. 16-18, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact Carville M. Akehurst, Perry Hall, MD 21128, (301) 256-6474.

To insure that your event is included, please forward it, 90 days in advance, to: WEEDS TREES & TURF Events, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130.

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Woodsplitter, hydraulic 1200 P.S.I., splits two-ways, logs to 30" long, 3 phase electric 230/460. Its a Hoss. \$2000.00 Newport News, VA 804-874-7335. 12/84

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Wanted to buy used straw blowers. Must have water cooled engines and in good condition. Reasonable priced. Send photo and description. Las Landscaping, 523 Jackson Ave., Pulaski, VA 24301., 703-980-7539. 12/84

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WANTED: Large Lindig and Royer Shredders. Lewis Equipment, 320 Third Street S.W., Winter Haven, FL 33880. (813) 294-5893. 2/85

Wanted to buy **HYDRO SEEDER**. Please send photo. Johnson Hydro Seeding Corp., 13751 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD 20850, 301/340-0805. TF

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Short People Got Nobody

The reaction to Randy Newman's *Short People Got Nobody* was swift and loud when the song first aired on radio in the early 70's. Short people felt the song was an insensitive putdown by tall people. They called radio stations to protest, they picketed Newman's concerts for months, and they wrote new lyrics to the tune knocking tall people, fat people, and any other vulnerable part of society. They were upset and released years of pent up frustration.

A similar frustration exists in the Green Industry. It is caused by the excessive attention poured over lawn care operators and golf course superintendents by suppliers and the news media while other Green Industry professions go unrecognized.

Refusing to accept a lesser position in the industry, smaller and older Green Industries are starting to fight back.

Without the emotional stimulation of a song, smaller industry associations are regrouping to restore their rightful share of recognition amongst all Green Industries.

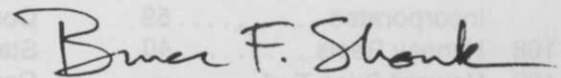
The list of examples is long. The American Sod Producers Association hired a full-time, experienced executive director, Doug Fender, and immediately started an image-building campaign. The Professional Grounds Management Society has made Allan Shulder's part-time position a full-time one and the PGMS board's primary goal is more attention for their programs and show. The Sports Turf Managers' Association has just separated from its former management firm and its board selected image-building and show as key objectives. The Associated Landscape Contractors of America has stepped up its maintenance programs to show the landscape world there was landscape maintenance before the term lawn care was ever coined.

There is a solution to the image problem of smaller associations, one where the individual associations can preserve their identity but still take advantage of a larger show, more attention from manufacturers, and perhaps bigger budget educational programs.

It is a joint conference. Instead of 200 people attending separate shows, 3,000 will attend a joint conference. Instead of 35 small booths, there will be 200 exhibitors with their big booths. Instead of speakers from a limited area, there will be experts from across the country.

This can be done without small associations losing their identity in a big crowd. In fact, small associations can still have small meetings if they want, but once a year put their muscle together with other allied associations for a major event.

Such an event will become reality within the next 18 months. Mark my word.



Bruce F. Shank, executive editor



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