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JUNE 1986, VOLUME 25, NUMBER 6

WFFDSTRFFSSTRFFSSTRFF The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962





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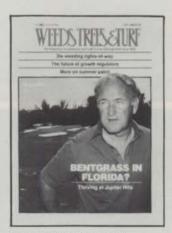
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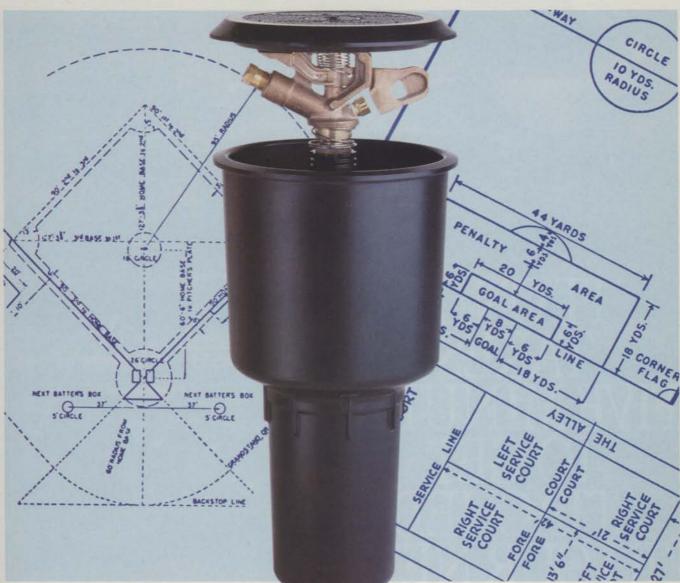
Dick Herr of Jupiter Hills, photo by Ron Hall.

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655

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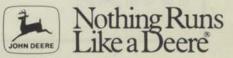


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Or better yet, why not go and check out a hydrostatic tractor for yourself. You'll get attached to one in no time at all.



NEWS/TRENDS by the Editorial Staff







Jerry Roche

Ken Kuhajda

Heide Aungst

Hi-tech hits outdoor power

A recent trend toward using technology to create smaller, more efficient outdoor power equipment will continue into the 1990s. according to a small engine expert.

"Outdoor power equipment is using science and technology

today, not mass, not force, not brute strength," says John Johnston, national service manager for HMC/the Green Machine, Long Beach, Calif. "Five years from now, you'll be working on plastic and ceramic engines weighing two to three pounds and producing temperatures up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit."

Johnston, who gave a series of "total service seminars" to HMC dealers across the nation last winter, points also to advances being made on engines

of all sizes. "There will come the day John Johnston when you'll see no spark plugs in engines," he notes. "As early as next year, General Motors products won't have distributors.'

Toro enters fitness market

The Toro Company is not sitting still, enjoying its comeback from a well-publicized slump of a few years ago. A leading independent manufacturer of lawn care equipment. Toro has entered a market outside its usual domain-the fitness market.

The Minneapolis-based company has introduced the Isopower exercise machine, a technologically-advanced product that made its debut in February. The machine uses electronics, rather than actual weights, to control resistance.

Bob Carlson, Toro fitness equipment vice-president and an exerciser himself, explains: "The major difference between this equipment and others is that it uses electromagnetic force to create resistance as opposed to mechanical means."

Two birds with one system

Texas researchers have designed and developed an irrigation system capable of applying both water and chemicals through separate nozzle systems from the same moving pipe. W.M. Lyle of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and J.P. Bordovsky developed the dual-nozzle system for efficient irrigation and accurate chemical application.

The researchers say the say the new Multi-Function Irrigation System (MFIS) is an upgraded Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) system. LEPA consistently posted application efficiencies of 98 to 99 percent.



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GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

MAINTENANCE

Should students work on campus grounds?

Landscape managers at Midwestern colleges have differing opinions on allowing students to work on campus grounds.

Managers discussed the problem at the third annual campus management seminar sponsored by the National Institute on Parks and Grounds Management, held in Indianapolis.

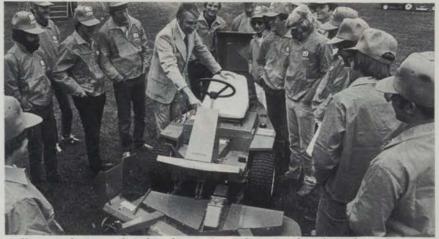
Some landscape departments have little choice but to accept financial aid students under work/study programs. Gordon Wills, supervisor at Marion College in Marion, Ind., says student help can be useful when the right students are hired for the crew.

Wills says the key to success is the interview. "I try to find out as much about the student as I can," Wills says.

Wills also says its important to hire students with better than average grades. The above-average student will adjust easier to college and will be able to handle the added responsibility of a job.

Once the student is hired, it's important to check the work. Many students are anxious to finish quickly, whether to get on to other activities or to try to impress the supervisor. Or, some students try to stretch out the

BUSINESS



College students get first-hand experience from Jacobsen's Ned Brinkman on using turf maintenance equipment at an annual seminar.

work, since they're paid an hourly wage.

Either way, its important for supervisors to keep expectations reasonable and check students work frequently.

Wages will vary depending on the college or university. Morris Burkett, program coordinator at Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel, Ill., pays his students minimum wage. Mount Carmel has a high unemployment rate. "People are glad to work, if they can find a way," Burkett says.

At the University of Illinois, Chicago branch campus, students on the grounds crew start at \$7.50 an hour, according to operations engineer Larry Thompson.

Insurance coverage for students will also differ at each campus. Some campuses cover students for all areas of grounds work, including equipment operation. Others have limited use of student help. Summer help may also fall under different coverage than work/study students.

Before using students on the grounds crew, you may want to check with your college administration for any regulations concerning student help.

INDUSTRY

MMSD to stick with Milorganite

On the heels of rumors at last winter's GCSAA Convention and Show that it would abandon production of Milorganite fertilizer, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District has issued a press release.

"Lay that rumor to rest," says MMSD executive director Patrick Marchese. "We are committed to stepped-up Milorganite production."

The MMSD says it will increase production 25 percent to 75,000 tons when a major modernization and expansion at the Jones Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is completed.

"Never has the Milorganite future looked so bright," says Mike Malk, solids utilization manager. "We wouldn't throw big bucks at Milorganite if it weren't a leader in its field."

The MMSD is the only sewerage agency in the country to nationally market a heat-dried, granular fertilizer derived from sewage sludge.

Charting inflation's impact

Have your sales kept up with inflation?

U.S. Chamber of Commerce economist Martin Lefkowitz has developed a formula for calculating changes in the dollar's purchasing power.

The formula tells the amount of money needed today to match the dollar's buying power during any of the past 25 years. It's determined by using the inflation factor geared to the consumer price index (CPI).

The chart here gives corresponding figures.

For example, it would take \$3.78 this year to match the dollar's power in 1960, and \$2.68 to equal the 1970 dollar.

To get larger figures, just multiply. If you were making \$30,000 a year in 1970, you need to make \$86,400 this year to have the same purchasing power (2.88 x \$30,000). If your sales in 1965 totaled \$300,000, you would have to be doing well over \$1 million to keep up with inflation. (3.55 x \$300,000).

Lefkowitz says the index is helpful in enabling business people to bring any dollar amount up to the current year in real terms.

	MULTIPLIERS	5
1960 - 3.78	1969 - 3.05	1978 - 1.71
1961 - 2.74	1970 - 2.88	1979 - 1.54
1962 - 3.70	1971 - 2.76	1980 - 1.36
1963 - 3.65	1972 - 2.67	1981 - 1.23
1964 - 3.61	1973 - 2.52	1982 - 1.16
1965 - 3.55	1974 - 2.27	1983 - 1.12
1966 - 3.45	1975 - 2.08	1984 - 1.08
1967 - 3/35	1976 - 1.97	1985 - 1.04
1968 - 3.22	1977 - 1.85	1986 - 1.00

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