

## TREES

# New Jersey's TREE program spruces up state's highways

Despite some setbacks, New Jersey's Turnpike Regional Environmental Enrichment (TREE) program won the 1986 National Arbor Day Foundation award for the best state highway concept.

The goal of the five-year project, which was begun in 1985, is to plant three million trees along the 142-mile toll road. The project's aim is to establish enough trees to screen out the industrial sites lining the turnpike.

But most of the seedlings planted in 1986—about 40,000—died from the summer's devastating drought. Some trees have had trouble surviving in the poor soil which was brought in as fill when the state built the turnpike.

"It was designed as a five-year project, but with the drought, it may be a 20-year project," says Jack Salvesen, director of the TREE program.

To combat the problem this coming



Jack Salvesen (third from left), director of the Jersey Pride Program, discusses shrub rooting with representatives of some state agencies cooperating in the TREE Project at Johnstone Training and Research Center.

summer, Salvesen has struck a deal with American Cyanamid, manufacturer of Aquastore, a water-retaining polymer. The company will work directly with the TREE program on test sites involving shrub rooting, tree propagation and bare root seedling transplants using Aquastore.

Another company, Conard-Pyle, will also work with the project in

*continued on page 14*

## ATHLETIC TURF

# NTSC finds new home at the USDA

The National Sports Turf Council (NSTC) finally has a place to call home. The NSTC is now headquartered at the USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland.

An agreement reached between the groups calls for the Beltsville station to give the NSTC an office, phone, secretarial help, and use of research plots until the council is financially able to support itself. An executive director will be named later this year.

"I see our major role over the next year in pulling together the information available on sports turf and determining research needs and priorities," says the USDA's Jack Murray, who is currently overseeing new headquarters. "We're excited

about it."

Murray says the new headquarters will function as a center for information distribution. Research will concentrate on making public park and school system fields safer for young athletes.

The NSTC will continue to work closely with related groups such as the Sports Turf Managers Association, the NFL Players Association and PGMS.

"Fred Grau deserves credit in that he has taken a lot of the load and will continue to do so," Murray says. Grau serves as chairman of the NSTC.

Information on safer sports turf can be obtained by writing to: NSTC, USDA/ARS/BARC, Building 001, Room 333, Beltsville, MD 20705.

The most common cause of pesticide accidents is human error, says Dr. William Oberholtzer of Rutgers University. Oberholtzer told the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo that the following procedures will reduce the hazards of pesticide use.

1. Have all employees participate in a safety training program provided in-house, through an extension service, or by a company, such as the pesticide manufacturer.

2. Maintain the best protection equipment available including goggles, face shields and respirators. This is not a place to cut costs. Check equipment every day for tears, leaks and broken seams.

3. Use extra precautions in pesticide storage:

- Make sure warning signs are abundant.

- Notify the local fire department as to the placement of the storage building. In case of an accident, they will be aware the fumes are toxic.

- Give the fire department a diagram of exactly where each chemical is stored.

- Place fire extinguishers throughout the storage building in visible locations. Make sure they are the right type for chemical fires. Check them regularly to make sure they work.

4. Check your state laws concerning pesticide disposal and follow them.

5. Make sure all employees are properly prepared for a medical emergency.

Finally, Oberholtzer notes, remember that protecting the public is paramount.

"1-2-3," an article describing pesticide safety "by the numbers," is a regular department of WT&T.



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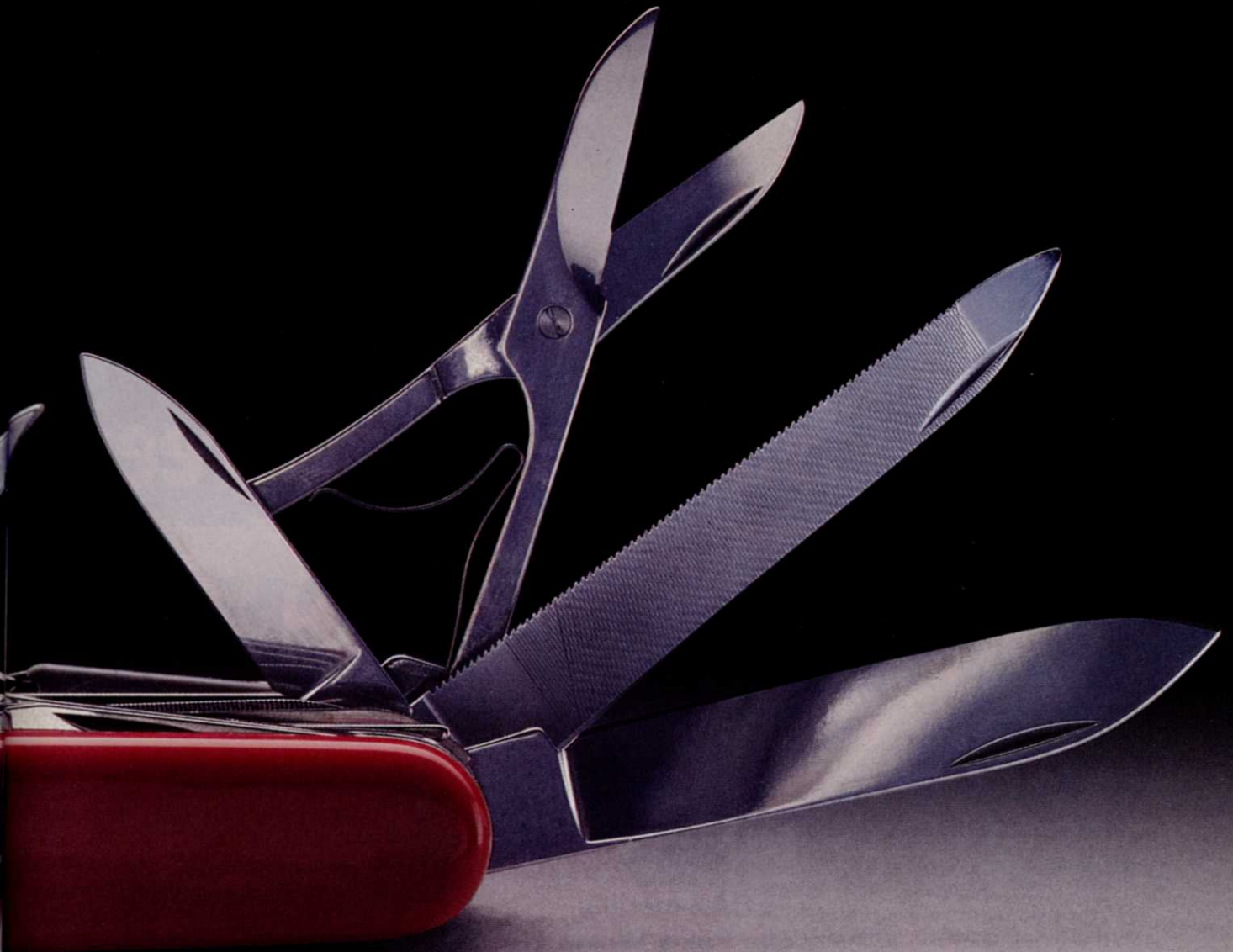
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## TREE from page 11

-planting demonstration sites of hardy flowering roses on rights-of-way and off-turnpike property.

The TREE project began with more than 6,000 trees being planted: evergreens for year-round color, deciduous for fall color and red oak, the state tree.

But the project has already run into some roadblocks other than the drought.

"We have the growing capacity; it's getting the cooperation," Salvesson says.

Lack of cooperation of property owners has been a major setback to the project. Most of the property within view of the highway is privately owned. It's up to the owners to buy the seedlings and plant them.

The state forester offers 1,000 seedlings for \$70 and will come in and plant them. But in the midst of the project was a debate over widening the turnpike, which created concern among most property-owners adjacent to the highway.

Salvesson is already dreaming up other practical beautification projects, like using state prisoners to plant shrubs in areas directly along the highway, where trees might present a safety hazard.

## ASSOCIATIONS

### PLCAA installs Old Fox's Wilkinson

Dr. Jim Wilkerson of Old Fox Lawn Care, E. Providence, R.I., has been installed as president of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. Russell Frith of Lawn Doctor becomes vice-president, and Paul Moore of Lawn Green is secretary-treasurer. Board members include J. Martin Erbaugh of Lawnmark, Dr. Roger Funk of The Davey Co., Jim Mello of Nice'N'Green, David Sek of Monroe Tree and Lawntender, and Joe Windland of Tru-Green.

Ron Giffen, retired vice-president of Lesco, Inc., has been honored by being named *Lawn Care Industry's* 1986 "Man of the Year." The PLCAA has also awarded Giffen an honorary lifetime membership for his years of valuable service to the industry.

Last year's PLCAA show, which was held in Baltimore, Md., set records for both attendance and exhibitors: 158 exhibitors and 1,703 lawn care operators showed up. PLCAA executive vice-president Jim Brooks says the educational program at the show was more sensitive to issues facing the industry.

Brooks received positive feedback

on speeches by Dr. Elizabeth Whelan and PLCAA media consultant Ford Rowan, which put the industry's problems into perspective and gave some insight on dealing with them, especially the media.

The 1987 PLCAA convention and trade show will be held in San Antonio, Tex., November 12-15.

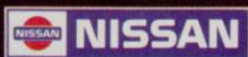
## CORPORATIONS Clayton & Dubilier buys O.M. Scott

A New York-based company that specializes in leveraged acquisitions will soon do just that to O.M. Scott & Sons of Marysville, Ohio.

Clayton & Dubilier will purchase Scotts and its sister company, W. Atlee Burpee, from the ITT Corp. for \$150 million.

"No cash has changed hands, so their influence hasn't been felt yet," says Ron Gagne, director of lawn care services at Scotts. "We don't expect any changes until February, at least. They paid a lot of money for Scotts, so it doesn't seem reasonable that they would pay that much and then cut us back."

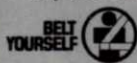
Scotts president and chief executive  
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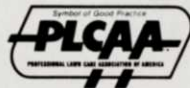
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# SHORTCUTS

**THE BEST OF TIMES/THE WORST OF TIMES.....**Shaun Gayle, defensive back for the Chicago Bears, told the North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE) that the best field the Bears played on last season was the natural turf at Tampa Stadium...The worst was the artificial turf in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. "It has seams this wide," Gayle said, holding his hands an exaggerated two feet apart. Could that be why the Vikings beat the Bears? "I can't remember that far back," quipped Gayle. Now, about those artificial fields: "We would prefer an indoor facility with natural turf," he continued. "But I don't know if anyone's thought of that yet..."

**SPEAKING OF THE NCTE.....**It was revealed at the NCTE that the University of Illinois-Urbana has the oldest continuous research plots in the country. The Morrow plots date back to the late 19th century. The plots are on the United States historical landmark register. An undergraduate library was built underground so as not to disturb the plots.

**ARTFULLY ACCOMPLISHED.....**Ciba-Geigy, manufacturer of the fungicide Subdue, herbicide Pennant and insecticide DZN, was featured in the December issue of *USAir* magazine. But the article wasn't about chemicals or landscaping. It was about corporate art. Ciba-Geigy has a collection of 540 works of art, mostly abstractionist, displayed at its headquarters in Ardsley, N.Y. (The ag chemical division is based in Greensboro, N.C.) The company started the collection in 1959. Today the collection has been in more than 10 public exhibits.

**B.U.G.S., BUT NO BUNNY.....**The Biological Urban Garden Services, a news and information service for the organic landscape maintenance industry, has been formed to assist members in gathering and exchanging information on a variety of topics affecting the organic landscape industry. By means of a newsletter, members will be able to ask questions and discuss each other's problems, successes and failures. For information about B.U.G.S., send \$1 dollar for postage and handling to Biological Urban Gardening Services, P.O. Box 76, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-0076.

**SUMMER EXPERIENCE.....**The Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens is offering paid internships emphasizing practical horticultural experience for the summer of 1987. Students enrolled in botany, forestry, horticulture or related courses are eligible and should apply by March 14, 1987. Students will be assigned to one of three public gardens in the Los Angeles area during the 10-week program, which provides hands-on training in nursery management, equipment maintenance, plant propagation, pruning and irrigation installation. Send a resume, three letters of recommendation and a letter describing qualifications to Janice Golden, Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006.

## CORPORATIONS from page 14

tive Tadd C. Seitz said that the re-establishment of Scotts as an independent company assures that it will remain in Marysville.

ITT's Lawn and Garden Group—Scotts and Burpee—has grown from \$64 million in sales to about \$200 million. ITT purchased Scotts in 1971 and Burpee in 1979.

O.M. Scott & Sons manufactures a wide range of fertilizers and pesticides for the turf market.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Geneticist making strong turf claims

A Canadian geneticist claims his new slow-growing grasses can stop weeds from germinating. Turf industry experts are skeptical.

Jan Wiejer of the University of Alberta claims his fine fescues, bluegrasses, wheatgrasses and others are sturdy, need little care, and grow two to 6½ inches a summer.

A September 15 *Newsweek* magazine article reported Weijer's claims. Weijer told *Lawn Care Industry* magazine that his fine fescues could replace many of those currently on the market. He intends to market 30 to 40 grasses. With the help of a market research study from the university, he plans to introduce two in the near future.

But many turf industry experts disagree with Weijer's claims that his grasses, which are still restricted to Alberta, will adapt to other climates.

"We've had these things come along before, and their adaption is always limited," says Doug Brede, research director for Jacklin Seed Co., Post Falls, Idaho.

Adds Jerry Pepin, director of research for Pickseed West, Tangent, Ore., "I have a hard time believing any slow-growing grasses from the mountains of Alberta are going to grow well in Cleveland, Santa Ana, and Atlanta. This is not going to be a big factor for the fine turf market in the United States."

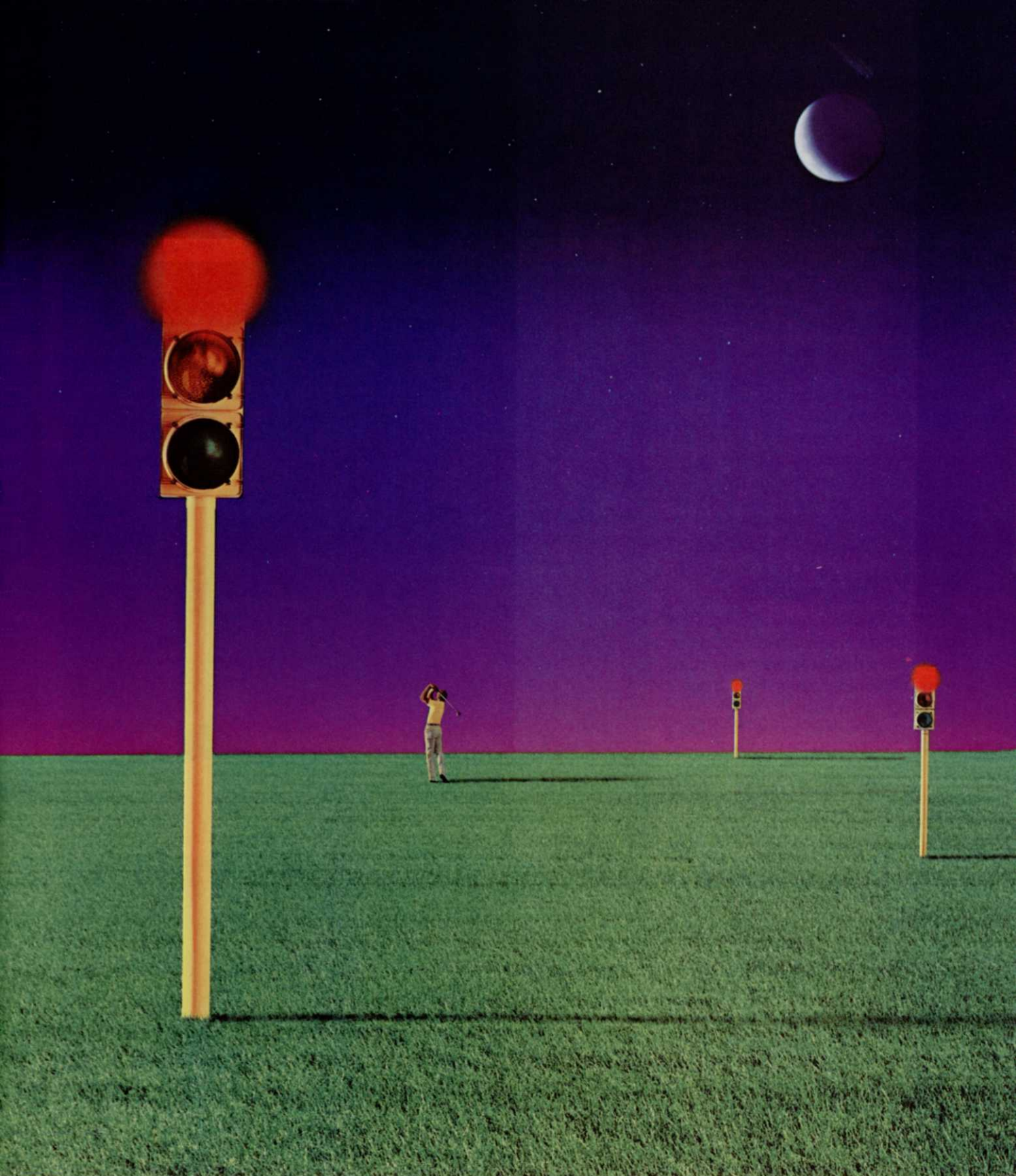
## PESTICIDES

### EPA decides not to ban alachlor

Instead of banning the use of alachlor, the Environmental Protection Agency, after a special review, has opted for limitations to minimize

*continued on page 21*





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# IT'S HELL ON ORDINARY TRIMMERS.

"We went through a trimmer every six months!" complained Doug Cole of Commercial Lawn, Inc., in Colonial Heights, Virginia.

Even though his crew used the best units from one of the leading lines, a nearby 110-acre cemetery kept knocking them dead.

"The trimmers have to run at full power for the greater part of the day. That's most of the problem. Every six months we could count on a visit to our local power equipment dealer."

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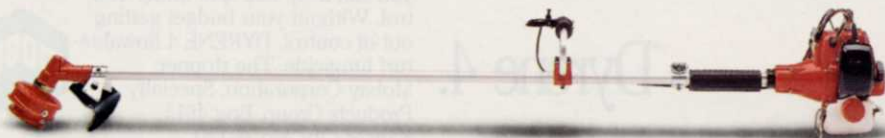
But one pass through a tough stand of Devil's Weed will convince anyone. Our B-45, for example, churns out almost two and a half horsepower from 41.5cc. The T-20 over one horsepower from just 20cc. And the easy power breeds confidence in experienced hands.



## WE REST OUR CASE.

Doug's story is no isolated testimonial. We hear the same thing from highway crews, from campus maintenance departments, from farms, stables, and golf courses.

So see for yourself. Field-test one on your own. Before you wind up mourning over an ordinary trimmer.



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