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PESTICIDES

Australian brings U.S. a new word

Peter R. Meadows, in an address to the National Pest Control Association, coined a new word. The word? “Toxo-terrorist.”

The word, Meadows says, is derived from book “Toxic Terror” by Dr. Elizabeth Whelan. Whelan was a keynoter at the 1986 Professional Lawn Care Association’s conference.

Meadows is group technical sales manager for W.A. Flick & Co. and vice-president of the Council of Australian Pest Control Association.

“We have decided (in Australia) that it is time that we attacked,” Meadows said. “As long as we allow the public to judge us on the strength of debate between ‘environmentalists' and ‘pest exterminators,' we have lost every debate before we start.

“But if we change the debate to one between ‘toxo-terrorists' and ‘environmental managers,' what a different picture that can create in the minds of listeners!”

Meadows said that the toxic terrorists do not know how to defend themselves.

“Senior government officers, who in the past have been very careful in what they say about these people, are now finding that ‘toxo-terrorism’ has a nice way of rolling off their tongues and they are using it with increasing frequency.”

Meadows concluded by issuing a challenge to his fellow pesticide applicators in America:

“Ladies and gentlemen, we bring you this word to add to your language. We dare you to use it. Leave the black magic to the toxo-terrorists. They will, with our help, eventually become entangled in their own web of deceit.”

BUSINESS

Foiling lawsuits with a few tricks

Landscape, lawn care and tree companies should incorporate every truck individually, says attorney Richard Jack of Athens, Ga. Jack says that such a tactic will protect the company from paralyzing lawsuits.

“Most large cab companies incorporate cabs individually,” Jack says. That way, Jack explains, a person can sue for only the worth of the truck that committed the wrong, not the entire corporation. “If you have a major liability source, cut it away from your corporation,” Jack says.

“Take your assets out of the corporation. Never travel under your own hat. Always travel under the corporation’s hat.”

In order to meet all the rules of a corporation, Jack says you must remember to file an annual report and have a meeting with the board of directors. “That means you have to meet with yourself,” he says.

Another way to guard against lawsuits is to not modify equipment on your own. “If you go out and build equipment, you’re the manufacturer,” Jack warns. “If you’re a dealer, get the manufacturer to do it.”

Also, make sure equipment isn’t worn. “Worn equipment will get you into trouble because you know better,” Jack says. “Even by attending trade shows, you’re held to a higher standard.”

Jack spoke at the Pro Show in Dallas, Texas.
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Scotts patented TGR technology weakens Poa annua on fairways and bentgrass greens, while controlled-release fertilizer helps desirable turf thrive and overtake the Poa.
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What A Scotts Tech Rep Considers An Eyesore On The Golf Course.

Sudden change in playing surface conditions. At least you'll have one less ugly problem to worry about.
Ask your Scotts Tech Rep to help you incorporate TGR Poa Annuual Control in your turf management program. For more information contact your Scotts Tech Rep or simply call 1-800-543-0006. In Ohio call collect 513-644-2900.
1988-89 seed crop looks on bleak side

The extended drought in the Pacific Northwest last fall may have damaged the seed crop. "The groundwork for 1988 has already been laid and it doesn't look very good." says Jerry Pepin, Ph.D., of Pickseed West.

The Kentucky bluegrass crop, however, will be slightly improved, according to Pepin. "A year ago crops were terrible. This year they will be tight," he says. "The crop should be healthy, but the demand is unprecedented. Prices will be high, and better varieties will be limited."

The bentgrass crop may be slightly improved, but demand will keep prices high. "There's a lot more use on fairways in the North," Pepin says. "And it's being used for overseeding in the South."

Pepin estimates fine fescue supplies to be adequate, despite a decrease in growing acres. "For low-maintenance or shade tolerance, fine fescues can't be beat," he says. "Prices will be firm."

Supplies of perennial ryegrass and turf-type tall fescue will be short. "Use of perennial ryegrass is higher than it's ever been," Pepin says. Despite the fact that seed companies produce more than 50 million pounds annually, increased use on fairways and home lawns will keep supply low and prices high.

Tall fescues are in demand because of their drought tolerance. "The dwarf-type varieties will be the wave of the future," Pepin says.

Pepin recommended buying seed early in the spring, especially if you want a specific variety. He spoke at the North Central Turfgrass Conference in St. Charles, Ill.

PEOPLE

Ohio State's Buscher retires to Wooster

Fred K. Buscher has retired from The Ohio State University's horticulture department, effective last summer. Buscher, Ph.D., retired as Professor of Horticulture Emeritus. As a district specialist in landscape horticulture, he had developed and conducted a series of five landscape design short courses, the Northeast Ohio Horticultural Trade Shows and the Nursery Field Days. Buscher will remain active in the nursery industry and reside in Wooster, Ohio.

Thomas W. Hofer has been named president of Spring-Green Lawn Care, Plainfield, Ill. Hofer's appointment was made by William Fischer, who died Jan. 7 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 41. The appointment is a rare accomplishment in the franchise industry: he has risen to the top spot in the company after having been one of Spring-Green's first franchisees from 1977 to 1980.

INDUSTRY

Landscape Management

an Edgell magazine

Ownership of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT and 109 other titles changed hands Jan. 1, 1988. LM, formerly an HBJ publication, is now owned by Edgell Communications Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio.

An investor group led by Robert L. Edgell purchased HBJ Publications and HBJ Beckley Cardy for $334 million. Edgell, 65, headed HBJ Publications for nearly 20 years.

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