**LANDSCAPING**

**Carpenter takes on North Carolina DOT**

Joe Carpenter of Landmasters, Gastonia, N.C. has filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals in his case against the state and federal departments of transportation involving minority set-aside regulations.

The case involves the federal Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations, which mandate that at least 10 percent of funds for public works projects be awarded to minority firms. Carpenter is challenging their constitutionality on grounds that provisions of the Surface Transportation and Assistance Act create a system of racial preferences in awarding public contracts for highway construction projects.

Carpenter, former president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, believes that these programs result in a system of racial quotas which prime contractors must fulfill to avoid a risk of losing federally-funded state contracts.

More than 20 lawsuits have been filed challenging the constitutionality of the 10 percent quota requirement, which was originally implemented as part of the Public Works Employment Act of 1977. In 1982, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act was passed with such a quota.

**RESEARCH**

**Thatch build-up is found in fescues**

Researchers at the University of California/Riverside report more thatch build-up than expected in new turf-type tall fescue varieties included in the three-year-old National Variety Trial there.

Thatch was present in all 39 tall fescue varieties included in the trial, ranging in thickness from 0.64 to 1.14 inches.

"Generally, the pasture-type varieties developed the least thatch, while the newer turf types, including dwarf varieties, accumulated the most," reports Matt Leonard, Ph.D. (continued on page 14)
Finally, A High Capacity Doesn't Handle Large Lawns

For too long, high-capacity mowers have left a lot to be desired. But now all that has changed. Presenting the revolutionary new Groundsmaster® 580-D with an 80 hp turbo-diesel engine. The first large-scale rotary mower that combines the productivity of a 16-foot machine with the handling ease of a smaller mower.

Operating the 580-D is incredibly easy. Only Toro provides an adjustable tilt steering wheel and column. All controls are at the operator's fingertips, even cruise control.

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Digital readouts display vital engine/machine functions at the touch of a button.

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Toro's outboard cutting units also include an exclusive break-away protection feature. Should the operator misjudge distance, the wings will pivot away from the object that has been hit.

The 580-D's wide stance and short wheelbase give it maneuverability and stability. A short 76" wheelbase lets you turn an 18" uncut circle without braking. And Toro's exclusive swept-forward wing design keeps the tips of the outboard cutting units in line with the front drive wheels improving operator control and visibility.

For even more versatility, the 580-D includes these accessories: an 8-foot front broom attachment, a roll over protection system, a canopy, a cab and a road light package.

If you've been sacrificing ease of operation for high capacity, it's time you saw the revolutionary machine that gives you both: the new Groundsmaster 580-D from Toro. Call your local Toro distributor to see the Groundsmaster 580-D or contact Toro at the address below. You'll see firsthand how productive and versatile large-scale turf mowing can be.

The Toro Company, Commercial Marketing Services, 8111 Lyndale Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55420.

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Call or write for our free brochure and location of the distributor nearest you.

Leonard, UCR botany and plant sciences staff research associate, said that the thatch build-up was noticed while soil cores were being taken to measure tall fescue rooting depth. This triggered a sampling of the 39 varieties for thatch thickness.

Cluster analysis produced two significantly different groups of fescues with respect to thatch thickness and four groups of varieties based on turf texture. Results by variety are presented in an article titled “Thatch Accumulation in Tall Fescue Varieties,” in the UC publication California Turfgrass Culture, Vol. 37, Nos. 3, 4, 1988.

“Thatch thickness and turf texture were positively correlated,” Leonard notes, “supporting the hypotheses that the new, finer textured tall fescue varieties tend to accumulate more thatch than the older forage varieties.” The UCR study is not considered to be conclusive, he added, but it does point out a trend in tall fescue thatch accumulation that warrants further study.

Ohio State offers equipment curriculum

A college program that teaches technicians to operate outdoor power equipment will be offered at The Ohio State University.

Horticultural Power and Equipment Technology will be taught at OSU’s Wooster branch, beginning in the fall of 1989.

Students completing the two-year program that includes an internship will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree.

General education courses including communications skills, math, physics and microcomputers will be balanced with hands-on and classroom studies of engines, hydraulics, power transmission, and servicing specialized horticultural equipment.

In addition, the students will receive basic training in one of three areas: turf, landscaping or nursery.

Anyone interested in more information about the program can call Fred Lendrum at (216) 264-3911 or toll-free in Ohio (800) 647-8283. The address of the OSU-Wooster campus is 1328 Dover Road, Wooster, OH 44691.

Lawn Care

Tru Green buys Texas operation

Tru Green Corp. has purchased Greenkeeper Inc., a San Antonio-
The choice is yours. Whether your customers need season-long preemergence weed control by itself or on fertilizer from leading formulators, Team fits.

Either way, you can control crabgrass and goosegrass season-long with just one application. Or even a split application, if need be, to better fit your program.

Team granular also fits your high standards of annual grass weed control. University tests show it’s outstanding. Team gets to the ground and stays put to form a zone of protection that keeps weeds out all season long.

And Team does all this without hurting your turf, including sensitive bentgrass.

So spread it straight in granular form. Or spread it on fertilizer available from leading formulators. Team fits your program. See your Elanco representative. Or call toll-free: 1-800-352-6776.

Spread it your way.

Team™ granular.

Team™ on fertilizer.
based lawn care company with branches in Oklahoma City, Dallas, Austin and Houston. Tru Green has nearly doubled its size through acquisitions since last year. This move marks the second time this year that the company has acquired a competitor with revenues of more than $1 million.

The Greenkeeper name will be kept for the time being, says company founder James Eckhardt. The company's 55 employees will also remain and Eckhardt will continue to run the operation.

Eckhardt says he was not actually looking to sell when Tru Green approached him. "A lot of it was the people," Eckhardt says. "There's going to be a lot of opportunities for our employees."

**BUSINESS**

**Florida helps fill drought damage gap**

Reports from nursery plant producers in the Midwest indicate the drought of 1988 and searing heat may have inflicted heavy damage.

Earl Wells, executive vice president of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FFGNA) said initial indications received this fall point to a 30 percent loss of nursery plant materials in the Midwest. Most nurseries in the impacted areas do not have irrigation.

Wells says that Illinois, Indiana and Michigan were hit particularly hard. He adds that Florida growers will move to fill the gap left by the drought damage.

"We're certainly sympathetic to the drought victims of those states," he says, "but at the same time, if there is a need to be filled, Florida would be in a position to supply some types of plant material which are compatible with conditions in those states."

Florida is a major supplier of woody ornamental plants to many Northern states and the largest supplier of foliage material in the nation.

**GOLF**

**Who to maintain your course for?**

Superintendents of golf courses which host professional events must make up their mind: Are you maintaining your course for tournament and guests, or are you maintaining it for the everyday player?

This revelation from Dan Pierson of Cherry Hills Country Club in Englewood, Colo., site of three Opens and two PGA championships.

"The first year I was here, we tried to alleviate some of the complaints from members by reducing some of our tournament conditions," says Pierson, who moved his fairway mower settings from Vi-inch to 9/16-inch. "It sure takes off a lot of pressure from the everyday comments you get from members. They really recognize that we're doing it for them, and they appreciate it.

"And I haven't heard anybody give us any complaints about flirier lies. The lower handicap members were very concerned that we would, in going to higher cut fairways, have worse playing conditions for them. So far, it hasn't worked that way."

The tees, however, are a different story.

"We kind of sold our soul a little bit," Pierson notes. "I water to support conditions of play and not to support agronomic conditions. I consider that a bit of a compromise."

**SEED**

**NuMex closer to landscape market**

Seed yield on a variety of Bermuda grass developed at New Mexico State University has brought the grass a step closer to commercial use.

Arden Baltensperger, professor of agronomy and horticulture who developed NuMex Sahara, says the grass produced a good seed yield on a breeder field. Since June, approximately 100 acres of foundation field have been planted in Arizona and
Stop Snow Mold Before It Kills Again.

Nothing protects your greens, tees, and approaches from snow mold better than Calo-Clor or Calo-Gran turf fungicide. Order now. Before it's too late.

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GOLF

Lyon to run for GCSAA presidency

Dennis D. Lyon has been selected by the nominating committee as a candidate for president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The election will be held at the annual convention and trade show Feb. 13, 1989 in Anaheim, Calif.

Lyon is a certified golf course superintendent for the City of Aurora, Colo., Golf Division.


The president and vice president are elected to one-year terms and the directors to two-year terms. Three directors will be elected. The president will appoint a secretary-treasurer after the election.

In related news, the GCSAA membership surpassed 8,000 for the first time in history this August.

"I believe the association’s high visibility within golf is one factor contributing to growth,” notes president John A Segui. “At the same time, our continued increase in membership has also allowed the association to provide more benefits and services, which in turn has steadily attracted still more members.”

GOLF

GCSAA to offer management system

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has contracted with Hall-Kimbrell, an environmental consulting firm, to develop an environmental management system for the golf course industry.

The package will include an environmental self-audit questionnaire and notebook along with videotape training materials designed to provide management assistance. The materials deal with subjects like pesticide use, storage and disposal, underground storage tank regulations, OSHA requirements and general risk management. Completed self-audit materials will be individually reviewed by Hall-Kimbrell’s professionals.

Correction

Landscape Management’s September Buyers Guide incorrectly listed Sandoz Crop Protection as Zocon-Sandoz Crop Protection. Sandoz manufacturers Mavrik Aquaflow for turf and tree insects, and Pentac Aquaflood for mites.

For future reference, please adjust your copy of the Buyer’s Guide accordingly.
It's Effective. Grower and university trials have shown that Safer™ Insecticide Concentrate kills a broad spectrum of insects. It's effective on aphids, mites, leafhoppers, scales, and whiteflies that affect plants, vegetables, trees, and fruits. Made from naturally occurring fatty acids, Safer™ kills pests fast, on contact, by penetrating cell membranes. Yet it spares many beneficials. And it eliminates the problem of resistance buildup, too.

It's Safe. In addition to use during the growing season, Safer™ Insecticide Concentrate can be used as a pre-harvest clean-up spray. It's safe for workers to re-enter as soon as the spray is dry.

Workers can mix, handle, and apply Safer™ without undue concern about exposure. Neither special equipment nor special safety gear is required. And Safer™ Insecticide Concentrate won't contaminate soil or ground water because it’s biodegradable.

It's Easy to Use. Safer™ fits in with most production practices. It can be used by itself as part of an integrated pest management system. Or, it can be tank mixed with other chemicals at reduced rates to broaden the spectrum of insect control yet achieve the same effectiveness.

Get a Free Sample. Judge for yourself just how effective this new, natural insecticide really is. Fill out and return the coupon and Safer™ will send you a free sample, a user's guide, and complete information including field trials. This offer expires April 30, 1989. Limit one sample per customer. Or see nearest dealer for special cash rebate offer.
Anchor turf covers and sod the fast, easy way.

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Anchor It can save enough time by speeding up your anchoring operation to pay for itself in a very short time — and make your work easier as well.

Anchor It works fast... Anchor It holds fast.

ATHLETIC TURF

On the road again

LANGSCAPE MANAGEMENT technical advisor Kent Kurtz, Ph.D., executive director of the Sports Turf Managers Association, recently returned from a trip to England and Scotland. Kurtz visited the Institute of Groundmanship (IoG) trade show, saw tennis at Wimbledon, racing at Ascot, soccer at Wembley Stadium and had a chance to visit with old friend John Souter. Watch for Kurtz’s observations in an upcoming article in this magazine.

“I had fun,” Kurtz says. “I’ve got plenty to write about.”

Clay leads to less maintenance

The artificial OmniTurf infield at Boardwalk & Baseball in Orlando, Fla., is doing well, thanks in no small part to George Toma, who took several weeks last spring preparing for the Kansas City Royals’ first spring training season there.

Toma and the stadium crew used gumbo clay under the surface of the pitcher’s mound and home plate to improve footing. As a result, the crew has reduced its daily repair work from six inches to only one inch.

A winning baseball facility...

“The secrets of groundskeeping are being told.”

That said by Jim Anglea of Texas Rangers Stadium during a talk at the Sports Turf Managers Association meeting recently. Anglea told the association membership some secrets himself.

“The key to success is drainage. You’ve got to get the water off the field,” he said. And the way to do that is to put a crown on the field from centerfield to home plate. Anglea does it with a laser grader.

Anglea also said, “You have to improvise. You’ve got to change your schedule.”

STMA gets together

The Sports Turf Managers Association annual meeting will be held at Vero Beach, Fla. from Jan. 13-15, 1989. Included in the meeting at the NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers training complex will be educational sessions, a trade show and an awards banquet.

Dodgertown features 27 golf holes, a conference center and guest rooms for attendees. For more information, contact Melissa Merritt at the STMA. Phone (714) 981-9199.

Field fertilization

Getting the right fertility program for a baseball or football field is not an easy task. Especially if you’ve centerfielders who can run 4.5 forties and offensive linemen checking in at almost 300 pounds.

“To maintain the grass, you’ve got to fertilize it like you would a fairway—knowing that it will be abused,” says David Frey of Cleveland (Ohio) Stadium. Team schedules, weather, and traffic from special events all contribute to make application a complex decision.

Next month, Frey and veteran athletic turf manager Harry Gill of Milwaukee County (Wis.) Stadium share some of their “tricks of the trade” in the pages of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT.