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By Jay Holtzman, contributing editor. You've got to look at small differences in string trimmers to find the one best suited to your work.

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LM Editorial Staff

Jerry Roche
Editor

Will Perry
Mg. Editor

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LM Editorial Advisory Board

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Midland, MI

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Assoc. Professor
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ISSN 0894-1254) is published monthly by Edgell Communications, Inc. Corporate and Editorial offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Advertising Offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and 3091 Maple Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Accounting, Advertising Production and Circulation offices: 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Subscription rates: $25 per year in the United States; $50 per year in Canada. All other countries: $100 per year. Single copies (pre-paid only): $2.50 in the U.S.; $5.00 in Canada; elsewhere $10.00; add $3.00 for shipping and handling per order. Office of publication: Edgell Communications, Inc., 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Second class postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota 55806 and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1989 by Edgell Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

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in John Deere walk-behinds

performance flat out, too. With speeds from 1.6 to 6.2 mph. There's even a 17-hp Kawasaki engine available as an option on the 48- and 52-inch models. So you've got more mowing muscle for steep slopes, deep grasses and tight schedules.

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John Deere walk-behinds are available in 32-, 36-, 48- and 52-inch cutting widths.

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Circle No. 114 on Reader Inquiry Card
My, how things change!

I can remember it as yesterday.

During the November, 1982 convention of the Professional Law Care Association of America (PLCAA) in Indianapolis, at least two farsighted people actually mentioned pesticide regulations in seminars. Jerry Faulring and Don Burton, PLCAA past president and future president, respectively, were the first to warn us of pending legislation. At the time, though, not many people were listening.

One of the earliest headlines I ever wrote for the green industry was this one: "Environmentalists: A threat to the industry's survival." It went on top of a Lawn Care Industry article bylined by Faulring, the first really in-depth article concerning the "environmentalists" to appear in a trade magazine.

Next to that article appeared another headline that read "Pesticide applicators now united." It concerned the beginning of what is now the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (PPPF).

Since those August, 1983 articles in LCI, the lawn care industry hasn't yet come full circle. The "environmentalists" are still out there, and still trying to get legislators to pass silly laws limiting the effectiveness of urban pesticide applicators.

But now, in 1989, the green industry has some excellent organizations in place to combat the misinformation that has, in the past, been promulgated by the "other side." Jim Brooks, a salesman for LCI and Landscape Management back in 1982, is executive vice president of the PLCAA. Jim Wilkinson, who worked for Old Fox Lawn Care back then, is now executive director of the PPPF. Then there are Bob Felix of the National Arborists Association (NAA) and Harvey Gold of the National Pest Control Association (NPCA), both active proponents of judicious, safe use of urban pesticides.

Have I forgotten somebody? Of course. There are many more active green industry businessmen out there on the state level. And it would behoove each and every one of you to get active at the state and local levels, if not personally at least monetarily.

But the point is, that as pesticide laws move inward to the heart of America from both coasts, machinery is in place to make certain that the green industry gets—at the very least—an even break from our legislators.

It wasn't like that back in 1982.

Jerry Roche, editor

Jerry Roche, Editor
Will Perry, Managing Editor
Terry McIver, Associate Editor
Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130
(216) 243-8100
FAX (216) 826-2832

MARKETING STAFF
Dick Gore, Publisher
Office: 455 E. Paces Ferry Rd.
Suite 324
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817
FAX (404) 261-7022

Jon Miducki, National Sales Manager
Marsha Dover, Midwest Sales Manager
Gloria Cosby, Eastern Sales Manager
Bob Earley, Group Vice President
Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130
(216) 243-8100
FAX (216) 826-2832

Robert Mierow, W. Coast Representative
Office: 1515 NW 51st Street
Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 783-0549
FAX (206) 784-5545

Tom Greney, Senior Vice-President
Office: 111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 938-2317
FAX (312) 938-4850

SUPPORT STAFF
Carol Peterson, Production Mgr.
Marilyn MacDonald, Prod. Supervisor
Lynn Williams, Graphic Design
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Bonnie DeFoe, Directory Coordinator
Gail Parententeau, Reader Service Mgr.
Office: 120 West Second St.
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-9200
FAX (218) 723-9223

David Komitau, Graphics Coordinator
Ted Matthews, Promotion Director
Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130
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Fungicide

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Circle No. 159 on Reader Inquiry Card
INDUSTRY

'Scapers see growth in '89

WASHINGTON — Though expansion wasn’t as great as it was in 1987, landscapers did meet their 1988 expectations and remain optimistic about increasing business in 1989, according to results of the 14th annual Landscape Business Survey by the National Landscape Association (NLA).

Work that accounted for the greatest sales increase in 1988 included residential renovation (+69%) and new commercial landscaping (+60%). This year, 84 percent of those polled said they expect new residential landscaping sales to increase, followed by residential renovation (+78%).

Last year NLA members predicted a 13.9 percent increase in business and enjoyed actual expansion of 13.7 percent. This year they are looking to grow by as much as 14.3 percent.

The table at right illustrates regional variations as well as overall averages from the NLA survey.

LAWN CARE

PLCAA says it will add to staff

MARIETTA, Ga. — The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) is moving ahead with plans to hire a communications specialist and a director of state government affairs. The goal is better relations between PLCAA, its members and state government.

---

**NLA December 1988 Business Survey**

The accompanying tables show regional variations, as well as the overall averages from the current survey.

<table>
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Source: NLA