Landscaping giant
John Moulder dies

GLENDALE, Calif. — John Moulder, who perhaps more than any one person took landscape construction in California from pick-and-shovel to organized business, died June 9 at Glendale Memorial Hospital. He was 81.

In an exclusive interview with Landscape Management magazine two years ago, the landscape trailblazer revealed his secrets of success:

"Just doing good work isn't the answer," he told LM. "You have to think in terms of business. Many people go broke doing good jobs...you can't have a boom one year and sit back and rest the next."

John and his brother Paul founded Moulder Brothers Landscaping way back in 1937. By the company's 50th anniversary year, it had been built into a $20 million a year business, making it one of the biggest in Southern California — as well as the oldest.

Over the years, the Moulder Brothers touch has been brought to such diversified projects as Dodger Stadium, Disneyland's Bear Country, the Music Center, Sea World of Florida, large chunks of freeway systems and literally scores of parks, golf courses and other recreational facilities.

Moulder went into semi-retirement last year. "The planning has all been done for an orderly transition," Moulder told LM in the 1987 interview.

Moulder formed Earthmark Industries in 1987 and Moulder Brothers became a wholly-owned subsidiary. This would later facilitate a plan he had worked on for years whereby employees might be given an opportunity to purchase stock and, in time, to become owners of the company.

Duane Barlett is president of Earthmark Industries. "The John Moulder stamp will be on the company well into our second 50 years," says Barlett, adding, "and I suspect there will be John Moulder overtones somewhere when we celebrate our centennial."

Moulder was also active in the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA). "He was a dominant force in the association for many years," says CLCA executive director Sharon McGuire. "His leadership qualities and gusto made him a real gem in the industry."

Moulder was CLCA president in 1955. He became its first Sustaining Member in 1977 and a Life Member in 1981.

John Moulder is survived by his wife Claudine. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.

Ohio State gridders will go back to natural grass

The move to natural turf by some major college and professional stadiums continues. Most notable of late is the decision by Ohio State University officials to install natural grass after the 1989 football season.

OSU officials decided in early June to make the switch. However, it's not yet known whether the field will be sodded or seeded.

Dr. Bill Pound, Dr. John Street and Dr. Karl Dannenberger, OSU turfgrass specialists, have met with college officials to offer their advice on which systems to incorporate into the new field.

"At this point, the only decision that has been confirmed is that they are going to natural grass," says Pound, though university officials are leaning toward seed. Pound says he and his associates believe sod is the best way to establish a 100 percent bluegrass field and avoid ryegrass conversion caused by overseeding.

Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City may also soon become a natural turf site in preparation for the 1994 World Cup Soccer tournament. George Toma reports that the decision will not be made until 1992. About 12 U.S. stadiums will play host to the games.

Toma spiffs up Japan

George Toma, grounds manager for the Kansas City Royals, was in Japan recently to check out the two practice fields which will be used by the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers. The two teams play a National Football League exhibition game on Oct. 6 in the Tokyo Dome (which, by the way, is artificial turf). The practice fields are natural turf. Toma says one was resodded with Tifton 328 bermudagrass, the other with Japanese bermuda overseeded with common bermuda.

For more information...

To learn more about sports turf management, write the Sports Turf Managers Association at 400 N. Mountain Ave., Suite 301, Upland, CA 91786 or phone (714) 981-9199.
Turf-Seed bluegrasses tie for 1st in '88

BELTSVILLE, MD. — Midnight and Blacksburg tied for best overall cultivar in 1988 results of the National Kentucky Bluegrass Test. Both cultivars, which tied with mean scores of 6.4, are marketed by Turf-Seed Inc.

No. 1 cultivars at each test location were:

- Welcome in British Columbia with 6.1:
  - Lofts 1757 and Able in Ventura, Calif. with 6.6;
  - Wabash with 6.7 in Washington, D.C.;
  - Kenblue with 5.4 in Ames, Iowa;
  - Glade with 8.3 in Post Falls, Idaho;
  - Mystic with 7.2 in West Lafayette, Ind.;
  - Blacksburg, Challenger and Able I with 7.3s in Manhattan, Kans.;
  - Blacksburg with 8.4 in Wichita, Kans.;
  - Wabash with 6.5 in Lexington, Ky.;
  - Cynthia and Amazon with 8.7s in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada;
  - Princeton 104 with 7.1 in Silver Spring, Md.;
  - Princeton 104 with 7.8 in East Lansing, Mich.;
  - NE 80-88 with 7.3 in Columbia, Mo.;
  - WW AG 496 with 7.0 (low mowing) in Lincoln, Neb.;
  - Midnight, Eclipse and Aquila with 6.3s (high mowing) in Lincoln, Neb.;
  - Princeton 104 with 7.4 (low nitrogen) in Adelphia, N.J.;
  - Midnight with 6.9 (high nitrogen) in Adelphia, N.J.;
  - BA 69-82 with 6.5 in Columbus, Ohio;
  - Asset and Merit with 7.2s in Stillwater, Okla.;
  - Midnight with 7.0 in Hubbard, Ore.;
  - Blacksburg and Bar VB 534 with 7.9s in Kingston, R.I.;
  - Blacksburg with 8.0 in Beltsville, Md.;
  - Princeton 104 and Eclipse with 5.9s in Blacksburg, Va.;
  - Blacksburg with 6.4 in Blackstone, Va.;
  - Blackberry with 8.3 in Pullman, Wash.;
  - Princeton 104 with 7.9 in Puyallup, Wash.;
  - America with 8.0 (dense shade) in Ritzville, Wash.

Cultivars which rated highest in each individual category (from more than one location) are shown in the adjacent chart.

The test is co-sponsored by the USDA and Maryland Turf Council.

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LEGISLATION

Burn proposals fail in Oregon

SALEM, Ore. — The turfseed industry scored a victory in June when the Oregon House of Representatives defeated a bill to restrict and eventually eliminate field burning.

The bill died in the House Environment and Energy Committee due to summer recess.

The bill would have limited field burning to 150,000 acres a year, with an additional 100,000 acres allowed to be burned using propane (said to be less polluting). Eventually, field burning would have been eliminated.

Dave Nelson, director of the Oregon Seed Council, credits intensive lobbying for the victory. "Beyond that," says Nelson, "the arguments for the phase-out of field burning were not strong enough. Six years does not allow enough time for biological research to become an effective replacement."

Despite the victory, Nelson says field burning this year will be as restricted as possible and closely monitored by anti-burn groups and government officials.

Jack Zimmer, director of grower services for Jacklin Seed Co., says the issue is far from over. "Come fall, there's going to be numerous petitions submitted by various groups to do everything they can to establish a phase-out (of burning)."

Craig Edminster, director of research for International Seeds, Inc., envisions some problems down the line, "because I think it'll go to ballot. We believe strongly that we're going to win out, but it's going to cost us."
Down in the analysis area on every fertilizer bag, you'll find the "fine print" that tells you what the big print doesn't. Read all of it. Carefully. But most importantly, look at the percentage of Water Insoluble Nitrogen.

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The higher the WIN percentage, the longer your turf will remain green. And the less often you will have to fertilize. That's because WIN is the percentage of total Nitrogen that is truly slow release. Freeing small amounts of Nitrogen each time it's touched by water (Par Ex® with IBDU®) or activated by temperature or bacterial action (competitive products).

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Only Par Ex contains IBDU—a unique Water Insoluble Nitrogen source that is 100% available to your turf in a single growing season. Consider that urea formaldehyde products (bacteria and temperature released) contain about one third of their WIN in the form of plastic polymers. Its long-term Nitrogen release is so slow, it's almost useless, and will most likely occur during the hottest periods, just when you don't want it.

For Sulfur Coated Urea (SCU), research has shown that by the time it is spread, about 50% is immediately soluble, effectively doubling your cost of controlled-release Nitrogen and cutting the benefit in half!

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If the percentage of Water Insoluble Nitrogen isn't listed, there isn't any slow-release Nitrogen. If it is listed, chances are it won't be as high as the WIN percentage in Par Ex. Even if it is, we guarantee you that 100% of what we list as WIN is available to your turf every growing season. That means for every six months of growing, you'll receive an additional 46-53% more usable WIN than our competitors can deliver.

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**SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT...**Ron Kujawa, president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, recently participated in a meeting with Pres. George Bush. The day-long affair was sponsored by the Small Business Legislative Council. “I was attending as president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, not Ron Kujawa,” the owner of KEI Enterprises notes. “I was a very lucky and fortunate person to be part of it.” Pres. Bush gave a 40-minute speech to 100 people assembled in the East Room of the White House. Also speaking was Secretary of Commerce Robert Mossbacher. Says Kujawa: “I went away feeling very confident that our country is in good hands. President Bush is a man of his word...a person who has very deep feelings about loyalty, honesty and service. These are things that are sorely lacking in Washington.”

**TEACH ‘EM ABOUT TURF...**says Rich Hurley, research director at Lofts Seed Inc. Hurley told attendees at Lofts’ 1989 Field Day that even the best turf products need to be managed properly to succeed. “It gets back to education, it gets back to knowing your business. It’s really a package deal. It’s educating yourself and your crew. It’s using quality products and getting your point across to your consumers, whether you’re dealing with a golf course greens committee, homeowner or sod buyers. Education is key.”

**NEW DIGS IN OREGON...**for Pennington Seed, which dedicated its Lebanon, Ore., turfseed facility in June. The 40,000-square foot plant is located on a railroad line that can handle 400 rail cars (56 million pounds) of seed per year. The company may need that many if its new Cheyenne bermudagrass, developed by Dr. Judy Brede of Jacklin Seed Co., takes off as expected.

**AMERICA IS HYSTERICAL...**over a product that has been used for several decades and might cause harm only if a wheelbarrow full of apples were eaten daily, says Jim Wilkinson, director of environmental affairs for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. “I’m afraid the Natural Resources Defense Council will go after the charcoal industry when they find out that a single serving of charbroiled steak is, maybe, a thousand times more toxic than all the Alar-treated apples I ever hope to consume. Then, there goes my Sunday cookout.”
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With Cutless, your turfgrass appears thicker and stronger for a denser, more consistent playing surface. Golf balls just naturally sit up better.

Cutless also reduces your water use, resulting in less turf wilt. And lower irrigation costs.

But Cutless does more than that. Much more. It also gives your turf a rich, darker green color.

Because Cutless-treated grass grows at a slower rate, there's also a dramatic reduction in clippings. Up to 50% less. With less mowing frequency. Also up to 50% less. You not only save time and labor costs, you can also manage your hard-to-mow areas more efficiently.

Here's another added benefit with Cutless. As your turfgrass grows up thicker and more competitive, there's less room for troublesome weeds to interfere. Cutless also helps crowd out Poa annua for conversion to a more desirable turfgrass such as bentgrass.

Don't just take our word for Cutless. Take it from Scott Niven:

"I've reduced clippings 30 to 50% when we mow fairways. My guys don't have to empty the baskets as much, so we save time and money on labor. But I think the best advantage is the reduction in the amount of water you have using Cutless. It's a marked difference."

"Initially, you get so little discoloration with Cutless that a golfer would never notice it. But after 4 weeks, the difference was between night and day on how dark green the Cutless turf was. "Cutless helped us convert from 80% Poa annua to over 95% bentgrass within five years. But I'm just as impressed with how Cutless creates a much thicker turf. It makes the grass as tough as nails, helps the ball sit up higher for our golfers."

Find out more about giving your course more playability with Cutless. See your Elanco distributor. Or for a free brochure, call toll-free: 1-800-352-6776.
The If-it's-not-one-thing Department: Weather woes persist in parts of nation

MARIETTA, Ga. — With some states experiencing the continuing drought begun last year and other states encountering too much rain, lawn care operators are faced with a potpourri of problems this summer.

"LCOs in the dry areas are trying to overcome the problem by overseeding with drought-resistant grass varieties," reports Dr. Jim Wilkinson of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America. "They are also offering aeration services in order to better use the limited water allowed for sprinkling."

People trying to grow nice lawns in areas having heavy rains like most of the Northeast are having their own special problems. "These folks are battling weeds," says Wilkinson. "The rain has diluted a lot of the weed management materials that would usually have lasted for a longer period were it not for all the water."

Wilkinson says that the excess rain in certain parts of the country is having a worse effect than last year's drought. "It's hurt," he notes. "From the people I've talked to, sales are not up to what they thought they should be. There were more positives to the drought last year (aeration, verticutting, etc.) than the rain this year."

Wilkinson also notes that conditions for crabgrass germination—again, especially on the East Coast—have been optimal this year. LCOs should plan on purchasing and using more post-emergence herbicides to control crabgrass than in previous years, he suggests. •

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