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COVER STORY:
THE BEST OF THE ROADSIDES
When the National Roadside Vegetation Management Association held its conference last fall, it named annual contest winners. Here are brief profiles of three.
34 North Carolina DOT
35 Ray Dickens, Ph.D.
36 Orange County, Calif.

TALL FESCUES FOR DRY, URBAN LANDSCAPES
by Bob Morris and John Van Dam. Successful breeding and selection programs of tall fescues have produced the turf needed to fill in the hot, dry, low maintenance landscapes where bluegrass often fares poorly.

PLANNING FOR PROGRESS
by Terry McIver. In 1979, ambitious contractors and architects, realizing that growth required mutual respect and cooperation, drew up plans for progress. Almost 10 years later, have things improved?

THE TREE CHALLENGE
by Terry A. Tattar, Ph.D. Plans to replace the trees that stood as forerunners in America's first urban parks were never made. Is it too late?

PROJECT PROFILE
New York City is celebrating its role in American history by planting trees and flowers.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESSION
by Ed Wandtke, CPA. Continuation of the family business requires that you choose your successor wisely, whether they're related to you or not.
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You know who you are

This month’s issue carries a story about the progress being made by landscape architects and contractors in their daily working relationships.

Have you, Mr. Contractor, ever changed an architect’s plans without first consulting with him? Do you believe the architect has a right to see his plans carried out as drawn?

Do you, Mr. Architect, draw your designs after considering the total adaptability of the plan to the job site? Do you believe a contractor deserves to work from plans that are practical?

The green industry’s best contractors and architects communicate, respect each other’s talents and depend on each other for guidance. They figured out long ago that summers are short, and once you step between the lines, it’s time to play ball.

A contractor interviewed for the story on page 47 admitted that some contractors will, for example, use a substitute irrigation product without telling the architect or developer. “Once it’s underground,” he said, “who’s going to know?”

That kind of behavior might go over in high school homeroom, but not in the real world. Sure, no one but the contractor will know of the switch. But if a contractor conducts all his business that way, his days in business are numbered. At best, he’ll creep along and make a minimal living.

Every profession has good and bad practitioners. Many great contractors and architects do their best for themselves and the green industry. But some fly-by-night, seat-of-the-pants operators eek out a living by playing fast and loose with professional ethics. They drive trucks that are ready for the boneyard, they don’t bathe and they wear the same T-shirt for a month. The true professionals in both fields are constantly looking for ways to improve.

The industry has made great strides in the past decade. But the responsibilities remain, and they extend in many directions.

Architects: draw with practicality; take charge of the project; visit the site regularly; be open to modification. Contractors: accept the architects’ knowledge; he needs you as much as you need him; communicate; don’t cut corners. Developers: be aware of what is going on at all times, and know that the architect is the project leader. If a contractor makes a suggestion, talk to the architect before giving your okay.

The only side we’re taking is that of professionalism and productivity. The industry has enough to deal with as it is, thanks to the anti-everything crowd. Let’s continue to work together.

Terry McIver, associate editor
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- Aucuba
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- Bamboo, Golden
- Banana, Ethiopia
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- Bellflower
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- Bird of paradise
- (Caesalpinia gilliesii)
- Bird of paradise (Strelitzia reginae)
- Bird of paradise, Giant
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- Black Hills
- Blue Point
- Blue star creeper
- Bottle-brush
- Boxwood, Common
- Boxwood, Japanese
- Boxwood, Korean
- Brown bean
- Buckthorn, Tallhedge
- Buffalo
- Cactus, Barrel
- Cactus, Cholla
- Cactus, Hedgehog
- Cactus, Saguaro
- Cappasina cactacea
- Camellia
- Camellia, Sasanqua
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- Candytuft
- Cane plumbago
- Cape weed
- Caricature plant
- Carissa tuttlei
- Carob tree
- Cassia annulidi
- Cassia, African
- Cassia, Feather
- Century plant
- Cedar, Red
- Cherry, Brush
PICTORIAL QUIZ . . . for landscapers and nurserymen: How are you going to get the unsightly, nutrient-robbing grasses out of the problem areas shown on this page? The answer is to spray over the top with Ornamec. It makes landscaping handiwork and nursery husbandry look good.
New lawn council meets with EPA representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Better communication between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the lawn care industry was a chief topic discussed during a recent meeting in the nation's capital.

The meeting between PLCAA’s newly-formed Council for Lawn Care Information and EPA officials was especially timely in light of recent activism against and legislation regulating the use of pest control chemicals in many states.

Those present at the meeting included Jim Wilkinson, PLCAA’s director of environmental and regulatory affairs; Bob Earley, publisher of Lawn Care Industry magazine; and various LCOs, university experts, manufacturers, formulators and distributors.

The meeting included a discussion about whether or not LCOs would be included in agricultural worker protection standards currently being promulgated. The lawn care industry would like input on these standards, and would like to see distinctions made between mixers, loaders and applicators.

Depending on the toxicity of particular pesticides, there might someday be three levels of certification required. Some products would be applied only by certified applicators, others would require an on-site supervisor and others would require a supervisor be available within a reasonable time of application.

PLCAA challenges new local ordinance in Mayfield, Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) has filed in the U.S. District Court of Ohio challenging a local ordinance on constitutional grounds.

The village of Mayfield had passed an ordinance requiring lawn chemical users to notify abutting neighbors when they planned to spray lawns and to tell them the type of chemicals being used.

“The industry is not opposed to reasonable, sound regulation, and we’re not opposed to further regulation in the state of Ohio,” says PLCAA’s Jim Wilkinson. “However, there are some 88,000 local governments in the United States, and if each of those governments decided they wanted to regulate the lawn care industry, it would create absolute chaos.”

The PLCAA is asking that Mayfield be permanently restricted from enforcing the ordinance and that it be prohibited from passing similar ordinances.

The association believes that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act established that only states or the federal government could regulate pesticide use. “Mayfield Village,” reads the suit, “by purporting to regulate pesticide use, violates the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.”

Sign-posting regulations took affect across Ohio on June 1. They prohibit lawn service companies from applying pesticides to residential lawns in any municipality or subdivided area of a township without meeting certain requirements.

Requirements include written notification to the property owner listing the pesticides applied and other information.

Companies are also required to make a reasonable attempt to notify residents of adjacent property prior to an application, providing the neighbor has asked the company in writing to provide such notification.

Such proposed legislation is not unprecedented. In 1984, the city of Wauconda, Ill. unsuccessfully tried to pass the same type of laws that would, in effect, pre-empt the FIFRA laws.

‘Waggle’ damage examined in U.K.

LONDON, England — Scientists here are seeking ways to minimize tree damage caused by high winds.

Wind damage results in the loss of hundreds of thousands of trees each year in the United Kingdom, representing approximately 13,000 forest acres.

Dr. Ronnie Milne has been leading a research team at the U.K. Natural Environment Research Council’s Institute of Terrestrial Ecology that could have applications in the U.S.

Milne reports that 40 mile per hour winds combining with the trees’ natural swaying motion results in extreme movement, or “waggle.”

Milne and his associates are constructing mathematical models of how trees bend in the wind in order to find ways to reduce the losses due to wind damage. According to Milne, site selection, soil depth, spacing and drainage all affect the trees’ wind survivability.