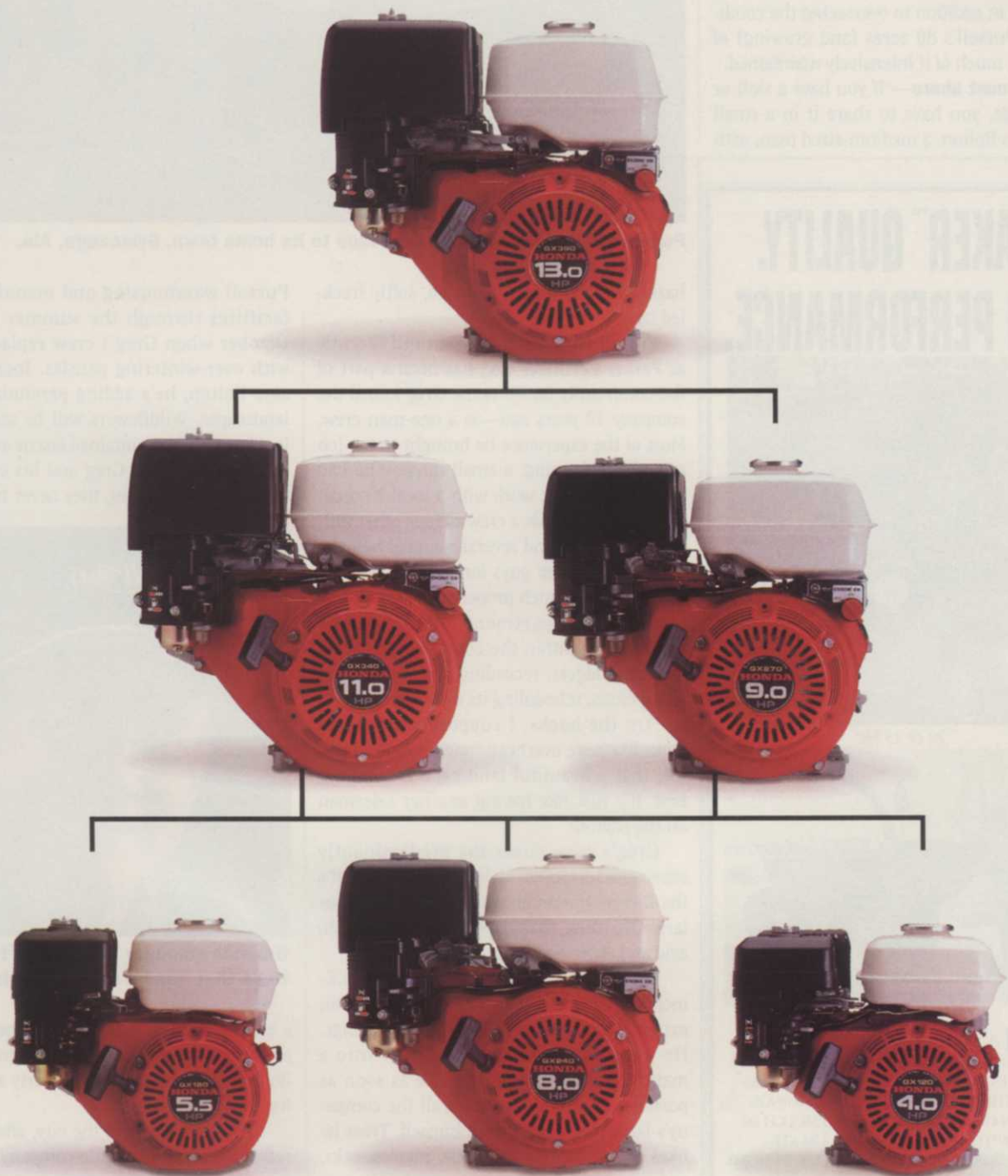


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Alabama from page 50

Kimberly-Clarke plant.

Landscape manager Bolton and his employer, fertilizer manufacturer Pursell Industries, do their part in making Sylacauga an even nicer city. Greg donates time and expertise, and his employer provides fertilizer and other material when it's needed. Greg does this in addition to overseeing the condition of Pursell's 80 acres (and growing) of property, much of it intensively maintained.

You must share—"If you have a skill or knowledge, you have to share it in a small city," says Bolton, a medium-sized man, with



Pursell Industries shows its best face to its home town, Sylacauga, Ala.

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hazel eyes and a sun-reddened, softly freckled face.

Pursell Industries, known until recently as Parker Fertilizer Co., has been a part of the community for 88 years. Greg joined the company 10 years ago—as a one-man crew. Most of the experience he brought to the job came from farming, a small nursery he had started, and some work with a local landscaper. Today he heads a crew of four other full-time employees and several seasonal helpers. "I consider all my guys foremen because we take care of so much property," he says.

Greg's department is virtually autonomous within the company, preparing its own budgets, recording and monitoring all expenses, scheduling its own activities.

"On the books, I suppose what we do looks like pure overhead," says Bolton, "but I feel that a beautiful landscape is a selling tool. It's just like having another salesman on the payroll."

Greg's crew mows the predominantly zoysiagrass grounds at least weekly, but it's the flowers, ornamentals, and trees, particularly the trees, that really excite Bolton, an avid and experienced outdoorsman.

Trees that fit—Bolton favors 3- to 5-inch caliper trees—which he establishes with extreme care—for new landscape plantings. He wants the landscape to evolve into a mature and natural appearance as soon as possible. (Bolton does almost all the company's landscape design work himself. Trees he likes to use include magnolia, maples, oaks, and river birch.)

"I want trees that are going to fit into the area around here, that look natural here, trees that aren't going to require a lot of pruning or spraying. I don't like those poodle-dog trees that you've always got to be trimming," Greg says.

Beds of begonias brighten entrances to

Pursell warehousing and manufacturing facilities through the summer and into October when Greg's crew replaces them with over-wintering pansies. Increasingly, says Bolton, he's adding perennials to his landscapes. Wildflowers will be seeded into less intensively maintained fescue areas.

But, as busy as Greg and his crew stays on company premises, they never turn down



Grounds manager Bolton won't plant trees that require much trimming.

a chance to help, if asked, with the grounds at local schools, or at the large modern library downtown, or the property surrounding the city building.

"The appearance of the city, after all, is a reflection on all of us, the company and even myself," says Bolton.

Greg and others in Sylacauga are apparently doing something right. Sylacauga, Ala., is a perennial National Beautification Award winner. And, the grounds at Pursell Industries, are just as regularly chosen by a city committee as the most attractive in the community.

—Ron Hall

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JOB TALK

Design team borrows from nature's palette

The Nichols Institute of San Juan Capistrano was designed and built with the natural environment in mind.

■ Nestled in the middle of a serene desert wilderness, the corporate headquarters of the Nichols Institute in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., is an example of modern-day landscape design that blends in perfectly with its natural surroundings. The building is modern-day, but the landscape is as native as it gets.

The landscape, with its meandering walkways, ponds and outdoor seating areas, was designed to provide a campus-like atmosphere which would encourage discussion, study and thought.

To extend the natural look, curbs and sidewalks are either stained or poured with color concrete to match the existing soil.

According to landscape architect Charles Wilson, of the Mountain View, Calif.-based Wilson-Van Deirse, the landscape was hydroseeded for erosion control with a variety of indigenous plant materials, including needle-grass, California poppies, lupins, clover, coyote bush and lotus.

Much indigenous plant life was used in the design. There are 900 trees on site, including many oaks and sycamores, some from Dr. Nichols' private collection, which had been stored in area nurseries.

Fighting fire—One design challenge was posed by local fire department authorities, who thought the numerous dry native plants presented a fire hazard.

"(The fire department) wanted us to use more ice plants, which are naturally moist weed-like plants," says lead designer, David Pyle, of The Krausz Companies, San Francisco. On the other side of the issue were the county authorities, who wanted the predominantly indigenous plant life to remain. The compromise resulted in a four-zone design, with a gradual thinning of the native grasses combined with irrigated sod grasses. Some of the sage, buckwheat and other very dry plants were also removed.

According to Wilson, the innovative use of waste water is a trend in California, a state, long plagued by drought.

"We're seeing more and more reuse of waste water," says Wilson. "It poses a whole new set of problems related to sewage treatment and various biological components"

Irrigation throughout the landscape is a combination of drip and spray sprinkler systems.

One problem encountered during the final stages was due to overwatering of the newly-planted sod. As a result, nearby oaks were overwatered. Pyle said the excess water was pumped out and the trees saved.

Not so lucky were a few trees weakened by drought, which fell prey to marauding beetles.

Another of the design criteria was to minimize the visual



Goal of the Nichols Institute design and build teams was to incorporate a meandering campus-type look and an orderly arrangement of spatial relationships.

impact of automobiles on the site. To accomplish this design goal, the parking lot was placed on a plateau about 20 feet below the horizon of the building, and the concrete was burnished with a rock salt dusting for texture.

The institute—Completed in September 1991, Nichols Institute is a diagnostic testing facility that applies new medical technology to practical applications for patients, in collaboration with its Academic Associates, who are internationally acclaimed physicians and scientists.

The Institute is surrounded by 7600 acres of park land. It consists of a pair of two-story 98,000-sq. ft. structures of curved, linear design and reflective glass. Additional structures include a 33,000-sq. ft. warehouse, a recreation center and a water reclamation plant.

Dr. Albert Nichols, founder of the Institute, wanted the design to blend in well with the natural setting by preserving vistas and the natural vegetation. "And it was also critical for the structure itself to be flexible, modular and energy efficient," says Nichols.

"We spent six years in the planning process, and the result is an extraordinarily harmonious balance. We believe that with this site we have achieved our mission to provide a dynamic work place in which the efforts and achievements of our staff members are encouraged."

The building design allows it to blend in and reflect the surrounding terrain. The roof and exterior walls of the warehouse are patterned with redwood lattice covers, providing a camouflage effect that blends the structure into the hillside.

Between the buildings, hardscape and concrete were colored to match the adjoining hills. "We tried to keep away from a man-made look," says Pyle. "For example, the amphitheatre was shaped to match contours of the land."

All site preparation and utilities were included in the first phase of the project, which contains a 100,000-sq. ft. lab and office buildings, a warehouse and staff center.

The water system includes the well equipment, a three-mile pipeline, storage reservoirs, fire system, sewage treatment plant and a landscape pond.

—Terry McIver

HOT TOPICS

EPA, 2,4-D Task Force agree on new label and exposure reduction effort

WASHINGTON—The U.S. EPA and the 2,4-D Task Force recently agreed on new exposure-reduction language on the herbicide 2,4-D product labels.

The following measures will appear on the labels of 2,4-D turf products formulated after June 15, 1994, according to the negotiated settlement:

- Mixers/loaders/applicators must wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes, socks. Users of turf liquid products with "Warning" or "Danger" signal words must wear face shield or safety glasses.

- Users of turf liquid amine products must wear rubber gloves, and users of non-amine formulations must wear chemical-resistant gloves.

- Persons who pour from open containers of over 1 gallon (and less than 5 gallons) must wear overalls or chemical-resistant aprons.

- "Probe and pump" systems must be used to transfer the contents of containers 5 gallons or more in capacity.

- Maximum turfgrass application rates of 2 lbs./acre/application.

- Maximum of two broadcast applications per year per turfgrass site.

Further, the label will state that people (other than the applicator) or pets are not allowed on 2,4-D-treated turfgrass areas until sprays have dried or dusts have settled. The 2,4-D Task Force also agreed to develop a product education program for both professional and do-it-yourself users to further reduce human exposure. "We (2,4-D Task Force) will be testing to see if the message is getting through and whether it's being understood," says Pam Jones, a spokesperson for the task force. (The 2,4-D Task Force is composed of companies that manufacture and formu-

late 2,4-D.) The EPA also gave the 2,4-D Task Force members more time for required rodent carcinogenicity studies.

The EPA is convening, early in 1993, a 10-member panel of experts to review epidemiological data on 2,4-D. The panel will be "an advisory panel for the comprehensive evaluation of the carcinogenicity of 2,4-D," EPA says.

"The Agency (EPA) is trying to make a determination about whether the compound should go into special review and it intends to use that review to help it make that judgement," says Gary Hamlin, a spokesman for DowElanco, a task force member. Several farm worker studies have suggested a link between long-term 2,4-D use and a relatively rare form of cancer. These findings have not been corroborated by other evidence, claims the task force.

—Ron Hall

PLCAA, Univ. of Georgia plan home-study course

MARIETTA, Ga.—The Professional Lawn Care Association (PLCAA) and the University of Georgia are planning a home-study course on turfgrass care and management, to be available in early 1993.

The course is authored by Dr. Keith Karnok, professor of agronomy, and contains approximately 200 study hours of material. Topics are:

- turfgrass growth, development and establishment;
- fertilization, irrigation and mowing;
- weed/insect/disease control;
- control product regulations; and
- soil types.

A portion of the course will cover management practices used for alleviating

environmental stress, such as high and low temperatures, drought, and shade.

The course will also include discussions concerning pesticide use, regulations and safety as well as integrated pest management. Lawn care technicians who complete the course will be recognized as Certified Turfgrass Professionals by the PLCAA.

Karnok says the program allows LCOs to learn the technical aspects of turfgrass management without being restricted to a classroom.

"Along with the experience of working in the lawn care field, this course will provide valuable training on topics of real importance in today's industry," Karnok

says.

Ann McClure, PLCAA's executive vice president, thinks the diversity of topics is what makes the course special.

"The correspondence course can take people beyond the basic technician level toward being more knowledgeable, well-rounded turfgrass professionals," says McClure. "PLCAA believes this will mean a higher quality of service to the public."

PLCAA's other educational project is a joint venture with Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE): a three-part technician video program, which complements the University of Maryland's EPA-funded, six-part video series, "Using Pesticides Safely."

PLCAA has been advised by the EPA's certification and training branch and will continue to seek its input as the program progresses.

—Terry McIver

ELSEWHERE

**Californians
eye H₂O bill,
page 56**

**Landscapers
save a life,
page 58**

**Speeding up
Mother Nature,
page 58**

105 million trees planted in U.S. in 1991

WASHINGTON—One hundred five million landscape trees were sold for planting between Oct. 1, 1990 and Sept. 31, 1991, according to a survey of the nation's largest tree growers.

"The U.S. Landscape Tree Planting Survey," sponsored by the American

Association of Nurserymen, on a U.S.D.A. Forest Service Grant, was conducted to set a baseline for measuring tree planting activity in the U.S.

"For the first time ever, we have the opportunity to measure the tree planting impact of the urban and community forestry movement that is taking hold across the country," says Dr. Fred Deneke of the U.S. Forest Service.

Deneke added that the results show the private nursery industry is "capable of pro-

TREES SOLD IN U.S. 10/1/90 to 9/30/91

Type of tree	No. sold	%
Broadleaf and/or conif. evergreen	39,175,000	37
Deciduous shade	33,073,000	31
Deciduous flower	25,297,000	24
Fruit and/or nut	8,091,000	8

Source: AAN

ducing the 30 million additional trees called for U.S. cities and communities in Pres. Bush's 'America the Beautiful' initiative."

The statistics show a capability to expand production of finished trees by nearly 30 percent over three years to meet increased demand.

According to the study, 22 percent of the trees sold were through landscape contractors and an additional 4 percent were through municipalities or governments.

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California's water bill has tight controls

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—If you landscape in California, and have the stamina to comply with the state's new water efficient landscape ordinance, then you really belong in the business.

California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance goes into effect January 1, 1993, in all California cities and counties that do not adopt their own water efficient ordinance.

The bill is not light reading; dozens of irrigation-related definitions, qualifications and calculations are packed into 36 pages.

The bill contains provisions for new and rehabilitated landscapes, and requires estimations of total water use for an area, landscape design specifications, irrigation design plans, provisions for use of recycled water, irrigation schedules, maintenance schedules, grading design plans and soil analysis.

To obtain a copy of the ordinance, contact Marsha Prillwitz at the Water Conservation Office, 1416 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 94236-0001. (916) 653-7366.

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On-the-job CPR saves man's life

LOS ANGELES—Knowing how to perform the correct CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) procedures helped two landscape contractors save a life this past summer.

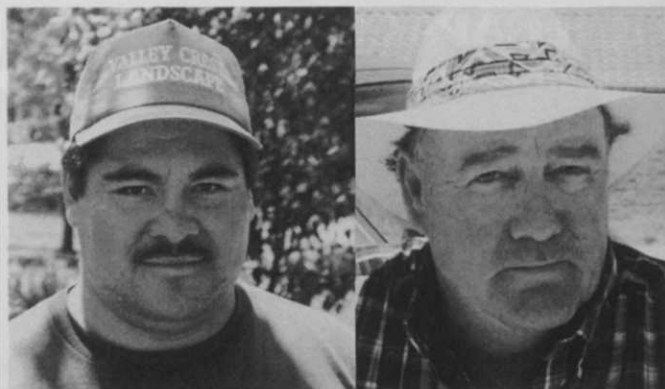
Superintendent Lloyd Lambert and foreman José Farias of Valley Crest Landscape, Calabasas, were working at Hollywood Park in Inglewood when they saw that Ed Blackwell of Moorpark had collapsed while digging postholes. Blackwell was not breathing.

They immediately started CPR procedures and continued until paramedics arrived.

As it turned out, not only did Blackwell need assistance, but so did the paramedics, whose ambulance battery had died. So Lambert and Farias then helped jump-start the vehicle so it could be on its way to Daniel Freeman Hospital with Blackwell inside.

According to the paramedics and staff in the hospital's Emergency Room, the CPR performed by the Valley Crest employees saved Blackwell's life.

Blackwell's wife Gloria wrote, in a letter to Burton Sperber of Environmental Industries (Valley Crest's parent company):



José Farias (left) and Lloyd Lambert put their CPR training to good use by saving a life while on the job.

"On July 2, I called Valley Crest and the receptionist informed me that it had provided CPR classes to all employees last November. Organizations such as yours that provide for the employees make it possible for the employees to provide for others. Thank you for providing these classes. Because you took the time to care, my husband is alive and recuperating today."

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Arizona plant scientists speed up Mother Nature

TUCSON, Ariz.—They're speeding up Mother Nature to provide desert-adapted plants for home landscapes.

Who are "they"? Gary A. Thompson, a University of Arizona plant scientist, and Jimmy Tipton, a U of A Cooperative Extension ornamental plant specialist.

The pair is developing a system to propagate desert-hardy woody plants using tissue culture techniques. They're also converting a laboratory process into one that a commercial nursery can use.

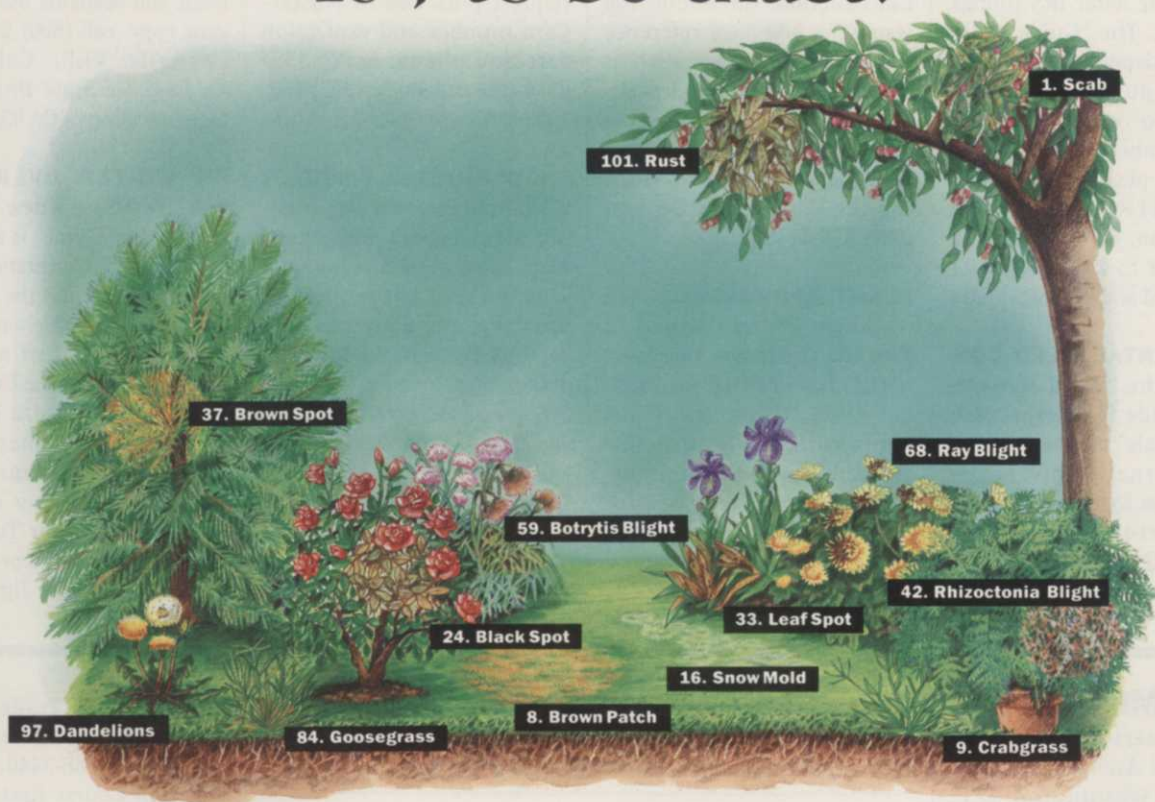
Though tissue culture is labor-intensive, the researchers can get as many as 60 new plantlets from each miniature plant and literally millions from the original plant tip—all exactly the same.

The Mexican rebud and many other woody plants with desirable characteristics are highly variable, with dormancy periods that make life difficult for commercial nurseries, Thompson says. "You see a gorgeous plant that looks just perfect for a suburban front yard, so you collect the seed. You won't know for six or seven years whether the young tree is going to look the same—and it may not."

Tipton and Thompson are beginning to work on similar systems for mesquite, landscape jojoba, red yucca and the bird-of-paradise plants.

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IRS HELP...The American Association of Nurserymen has a guide to determine whether an individual is an employee or independent contractor under IRS rules. The manual covers the title subject, IRS reclassification audits, the common law test, private letter IRS rulings, and more. The "Guide to the Use of Independent Contractors" is publication #A-2-40220. To order, send \$25 (AAN members) or \$50 (non-members) plus \$5 shipping to: AAN, 1250 I St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005; or fax your order to (202) 789-1893. MasterCard and Visa accepted.

ORNAMENTAL WEED CONTROL...The "Weed Management Guide for Herbaceous Ornamentals" is now available from Cornell University's Cooperative Extension. The 12-page, chart-laden publication costs \$1.25. For a copy, send a check made out to Cornell University to: WeedFacts, Dept.

of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

GOLF COURSES & THE ENVIRONMENT...The United States Golf Association is publishing "Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues," a 900-page reference divided into chapters such as wildlife, water use and pesticide applications. Cost is \$72.25, including shipping and handling. To place your order, call the USGA Order Dept. at (800) 336-4446.

PLANT APPRAISAL...Five members of the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) have revised the original 1988 "Guide for Plant Appraisal." Copies are now available through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and American Association of Nurserymen (AAN). To order through the ISA, members should send \$40,

non-members \$75 to ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL 61874. To order through the AAN, members should send \$35, non-members \$70 to AAN Publications, 1250 I Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. To order by fax, include request plus Visa or MasterCard number and expiration date and phone: (217) 355-9516 (ISA orders) or (202) 789-1893 (AAN orders).

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TRAINING VIDEOS...A new catalog of landscape training

videos is available from California Polytechnic State University. More than 100 titles are featured in the free 24-page catalog, covering topics like pruning, fertilizing, irrigation installation and maintenance, turf management and pesticide use. To get your copy, call (800) 235-4146 or write VEP, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

ON WINTER OVERSEEDING...Turf-Seed's new "Winter Overseeding Guide" is aimed at golf course superintendents in the South. Among the sources for the booklet: Melvin Robey, director of the turf management program at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, Calif., and Dr. James Beard, formerly of Texas A&M University. A copy may be obtained from your Turf-Seed products distributor or by calling Tom Stanley or Jim Enyart at (800) 247-6910.

NOVEMBER

7-10: American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. Phone: (202) 686-2752.

10-13: New York State Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Rochester Riverside Conv. Center. Phone: (518) 783-1229.

15-17: Golf Range and Alternative Facilities Development Conference, Newport Beach (Calif.) Marriott Hotel, Phone: (407) 744-6006.

15-19: Professional Grounds Management Society Conference, Indiana Conv. Center, Indianapolis. Phone: (410) 667-1833.

15-19: Landscape and Grounds Maintenance Conference, Indiana Conv. Center, Indianapolis. Phone: (703) 241-4004.

16: Wildlife Management and

Habitat Conservation, Myrtle Beach, S.C. (GCSAA) Phone (913) 832-4444.

16-18: Penn State Golf Turf Conference, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, Pa. Phone: (814) 863-3475.

16-19: Professional Lawn Care Association of America Convention, Indiana Conv. Center, Indianapolis. Phone: (404) 977-5222.

16-19: Green Industry Expo, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis. Phone: (404) 973-2019.

19: Landscaping for the '90s (Ornamentals IPM), Holiday Inn, Toms River, N.J. Phone: (908) 349-1246.

19-21: Tree Care Industry

Expo '92, Baltimore (Md.) Conv. Center. Phone: (800) 733-2622.

20: Irrigation Association's Water Auditor Training Course, Desert Demonstration Garden, Las Vegas, Nev. Phone: (703) 524-1200.

30-Dec. 2: Illinois Turfgrass Foundation North Central Turfgrass Exposition, Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Ill. Phone: (312) 616-0800.

30-Dec. 4: International Plant Propagator's Society, Eastern Region annual meeting, St. Louis Marriott Pavilion Downtown. Phone: (614) 292-5850.

DECEMBER

2-4: Rocky Mountain Turf

Conference & Trade Show, Currihan Hall, Denver, Colo. Phone: (303) 688-3440.

3-4: Golf Course Restoration, Renovation and Construction Projects, San Diego. (GCSAA) Phone (913) 832-4444.

7-11: Michigan State University Turfgrass Management Short Course, Kellogg Biological Research Station, Kalamazoo, Mich. Phone: (313) 939-3636.

8-10: Georgia Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show, Georgia International Convention and Trade Center, Atlanta. Phone: (404) 975-4123.

13-15: Sports Turf Managers Association Annual Conference and Exhibition, Indiana Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis. Phone: (312) 644-6610.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS