

INFO CENTER

Selected books and videos for the industry

PLANT LOCATOR...The Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association's annual Plant Locator was scheduled to be published at the end of May. The revised and expanded text will cover all aspects of the horticulture industry. The Locator now includes floriculture, trees, palms and cycads, ground covers, vines, aquatic and woody ornamentals as well as foliage and allied supplies and serices. Contact the FNCA at (407) 345-8137.

VIDEOS HELP TRAIN STAFF...The Professional Plant Growers Association has three short videos to help landscapers and retailers train their staffs and success-

fully install and maintain bedding plants.

● *Blooming Profits* covers the care and merchandising of bedding plants;

● *Flowering Plants* covers the care and merchandising of flowering potted plants;

● *Success with Bedding Plants* covers how to select, install and maintain bedding plants. To order, contact the association at (800) 647-7742.

SEED CULTURE GUIDE...The newly-revised and updated edition of the *Ball Culture Guide: The Encyclopedia of Seed Germination, 2nd Ed.*, provides in-depth germination and scheduling information for professional floriculture growers on

more than 160 of the most popular seed-grown crops. The guide includes information on bedding plants, flowering and foliage potted plants, herbs, cut flowers, and perennials plus an all new chapter on ornamental grasses. The guide costs \$39. Contact Ball Publishing at (708) 208-9089.

PLANT LOCATOR...The National Institute on Park and Grounds management has just published a new management guide entitled, "A Basic Handbook on Athletic Field Maintenance." The guide contains 40 pages and 20 illustrations. Contact the Institute at P.O. Box 1936, Appleton, WI 54913-1936.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

What's going on in the industry

JUNE

8: Lofts Seed, Annual Field Day, at the Lofts Ohio site in Wilmington, Ohio. Contact: David Goodwin, (513) 382-1127; (800) 328-1127.

10: Lofts Seed, Annual Field Day, Lofts Maryland, Beltsville, Md. Contact: John Patton, (301) 937-3332; (800) 732-3332.

13-14: Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, courses and workshops related to the planning and design of golf courses and resorts. Includes golf course design, golf/residential site planning; golf course development and golf clubhouse design and site planning. For a catalog, contact the Office of Development and External Relations, GSD, Harvard University, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138; (617) 495-1680.

22: Sports Turf Association Annual Field Day, Guelph Turf Institute, 328 Victoria Rd. South, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. For more information, contact Jane Rivers at 82 Rodney Blvd., Guelph, ON Canada, N1G 2H3; (905) 847-9181

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JOB TALK

Potassium gets credit for leaf spot reduction

■ Prolonged spells of hot, wet weather these past few summers have been especially troublesome on golf courses. Ironically, as Bill Johnson prepared for one, he was protecting against the other—and leaf spot—last year at the World Houston Course, Houston, Texas.

Johnson is the regional superintendent for American Golf Corp., the world's largest golf course management corporation. He also serves as an internal consultant at seven American Golf courses in south Texas, including World Houston. In 1991 he began an experiment with sulfate of potash, a high potassium fertilizer, to increase the turf's drought tolerance.

But instead of the anticipated summer droughts, Houston's golf courses were inundated with unusually wet weather. Over the last 20 years, the city has had average annual rainfall of 44 inches. For the last three years, however, the total annual rainfall has exceeded 55 inches.

All the rain was particularly hard on golf courses in the southern half of the mammoth state. The busiest courses—like World Houston, host to 55,000 rounds per year—were especially stressed.

"The courses here have clay soil, which doesn't drain well, and our course tends to be even more poorly drained," says Johnson.

It wouldn't wait—Johnson had already begun a fertility program, using five pounds of K_2O on the front nine, and two pounds on the back.

"I favored sulfate of potash due to its low salt index," says Johnson. "I've always maintained high potassium application rates for my greens and tees, to offset potential leaching loss, increase rooting and improve stress tolerance."

For the experiment, he used Great Salt Lake Minerals Corp.'s new Turf Blend, which, according to the company, contains the lowest salt index of any commonly-used potassium source now on the market.

"The importance of this product lies in the fact that it provides an essential dual nutrient fertilizer while minimizing the risk of turf burn," says Dan Nason, marketing manager for Great Salt Lake Minerals.

"Sulfate of potash is an excellent dual nutrient source safer for turfgrass because of its low salt index, which also allows for safer, higher rates of potassium that promote greater root development and a generally healthier stand of turf. The true value of sulfate of potash becomes especially evident when higher rates of potassium are desired prior to periods of severe stress from disease, drought, heat, cold and wear."



The number five fairway and bunkers at the World Houston Course, which uses potassium to keep turf disease-free.

Although the expected drought of 1991 never occurred, Johnson continued his applications. After the spring rains of 1992, Johnson was confronted not with drought, but with leaf spot disease.

"The severity of the disease and the majority of the damage was confined to the back nine, even though I have several drainage problems on the front nine," Johnson says. "One would expect, all things being equal, that leaf spot severity would be more intense on turf subjected to prolonged periods of free standing water and reduced water infiltration."

To his surprise, there was less disease infestation on the high potassium front nine, but the damaged areas on the front nine recovered faster and more completely than those on the lower potassium back nine.

"The big thing is that we repeated the test in 1993 and got the same result. That, to me, says a lot," says Johnson. "There is no question in my mind that it's reducing leaf spot."

The difference in disease incidence between the front and back nines was so obvious, that, as Johnson says, "Even Ray Charles could see it."

As a result of the experiment, he says, "I feel that high potassium may also play an important role in turf disease resistance and general stress injury recovery."

As an additional benefit of experiment, Johnson was impressed with the quality of Great Salt Lake's Turf Blend. "The particles are very uniform, it's very clean, and when you spread it, there's not a little cloud following you around."

The improved uniformity minimizes screen costs and translates to higher quality blends with less segregation. To Johnson, who must work within a tight budget, that leads to an important consideration when determining whether to go with the added potassium. It's more cost effective, according to Johnson.

But he'd still like to see what a high potassium application does to the turf during a dry spell.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Insecticide provides April to October control

Merit insecticide from Miles, Inc. provides season-long control at a rate of 0.3 lbs. active ingredient per acre.

Available in limited quantities on June 1, the company will make it available in full quantities next spring.

The common name of Merit is imidacloprid. It offers a novel mode of action, says Miles, which makes it effective against insect pests that may be resistant to current insecticides.

Merit does not inhibit cholinesterase in humans.

Merit also provides unusually long residual control: one spring application to control billbugs, black turfgrass ateniens or annual bluegrass weevil will also control white grubs later in the season, eliminating the need for further applications.

Merit can be used on home lawns, commercial sites, golf courses, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and other sites.

It can also be used on ornamental plants in commercial, residential and interior landscapes.

It can be applied as a foliar spray, soil drench, soil injection or broadcast application.

"It's very, very strong on ornamental insects like aphids, adelgids, whiteflies, lace bugs, leafhoppers and mealybugs," says Jim Dotson, Miles research production manager for turf and ornamental products, "but it has poor activity against mites, phytophagous nematodes and most beneficial insects."

Two-way control—Merit controls insects by ingestion and contact. Its mode

of action involves post-synaptic blockage of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor sites of the insect nerve. The insect's nervous system is disrupted, resulting in death.

Dotson says Merit averaged 94% control in 88 trials, about 10% higher than existing compounds.

According to the company, no evidence of phytotoxicity was found in five years of university and company tests.

Because of its low toxicity to mammals, birds and fish, Merit poses low risk to applicators and the environment, says Dotson.

Well-researched—"This has been the most highly-researched new insecticide to ever come into the turf market," says Dotson. "University people, who have worked with it for up to four years, are very excited about it." Researchers involved with testing Merit include Dr. David Shetlar of Ohio State University and Dr. Patricia Vittum of the University of Massachusetts.

In Vittum's tests on white grubs, Merit applied in April was found to be active through October.

Shetlar's tests against white grubs, Northern masked chafers and billbugs showed Merit "provided excellent control with reduced concern about toxicity."

Wide window—The suggested applica-



Circle No. 191 on Reader Inquiry Card

tion window for turf applications runs from early April through mid-August. Merit applied in the spring will control billbugs and annual bluegrass weevils, while also providing excellent residual grub control through the fall.

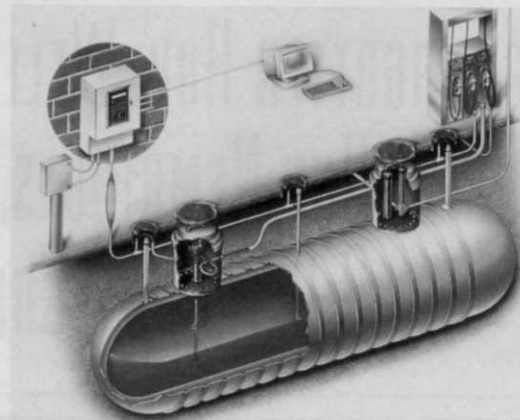
"This combination of a wider application window and fewer applications means greater efficiency for the applicator, and the low use rate means reduced chemical load on the environment," says Steve Chaney, turf and ornamental marketing product manager for Miles.

For maximum efficacy, Merit should be watered in within 24 hours of application. It will be effective, however, if watered in within 8 days.

Leak prevention for these underground storage tanks

The Omega Environmental Total Compliance Program for USTs includes the proprietary TC-110 Lead Prevention System for monitoring tanks, piping and sumps.

The TC-110 maintains and monitors pressurized air in the annual space of double-wall tanks and pipes. In the event of a breach, the "pressure curtain" pneumatically seals the tank, preventing any product from being released into the

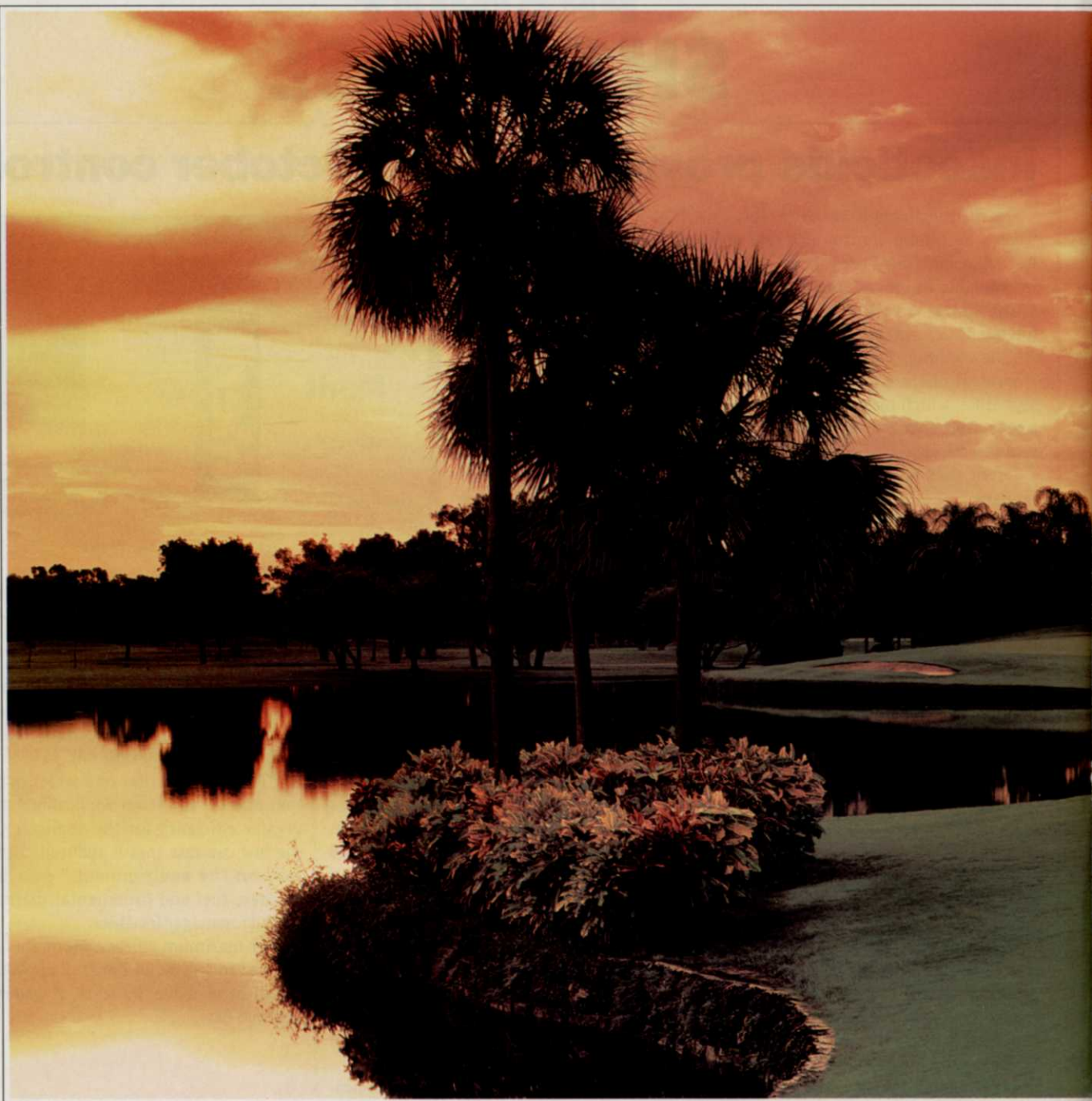


environment.

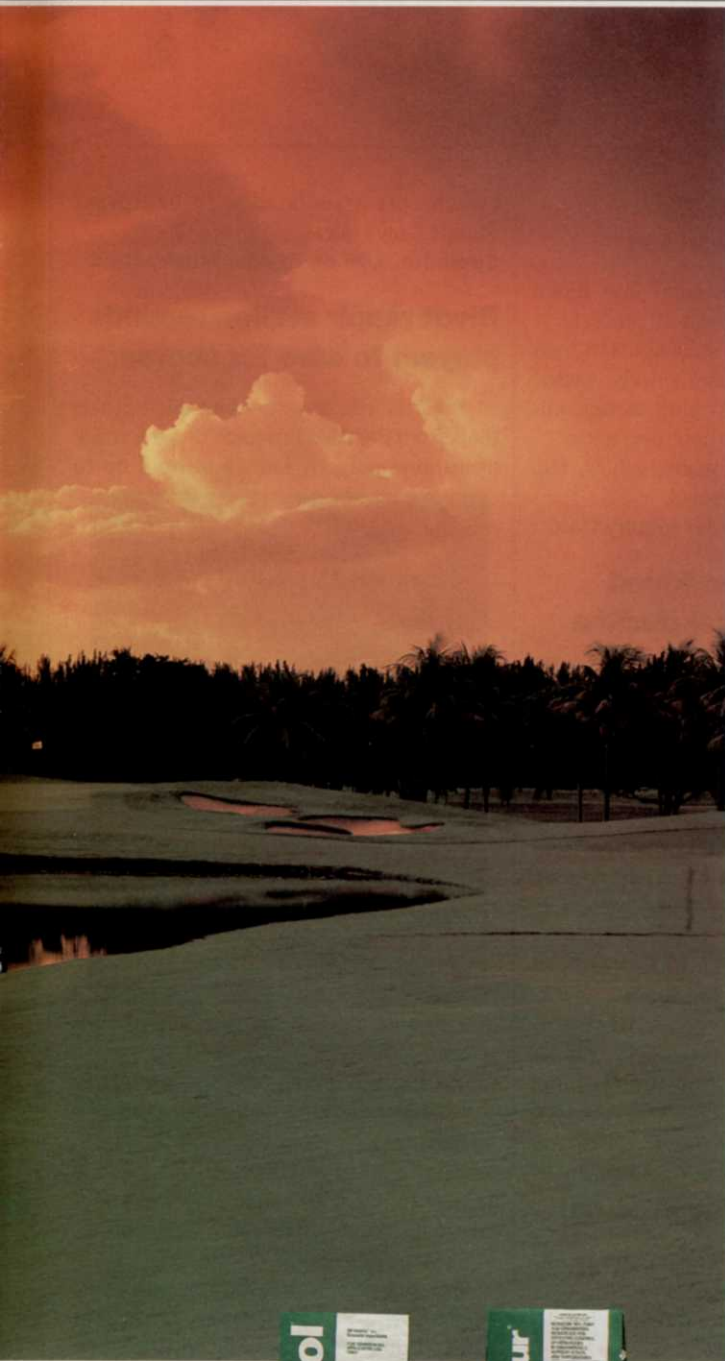
The system also automatically notifies the owner.

Because of the TC-110's capabilities, American International Group (AIG) has creative exclusive, low-cost pollution liability insurance with coverage of \$1 million per site.

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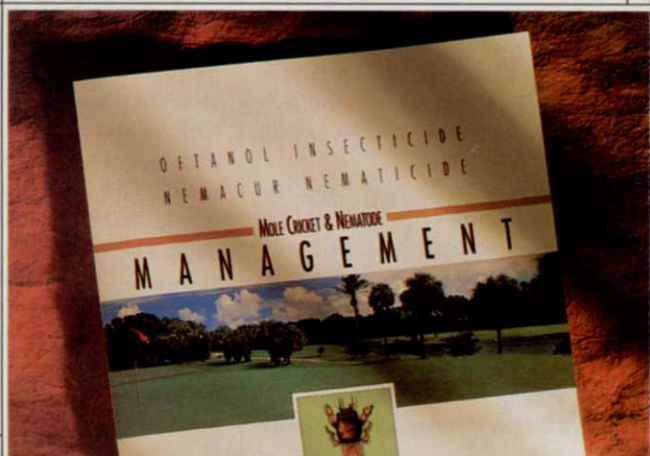
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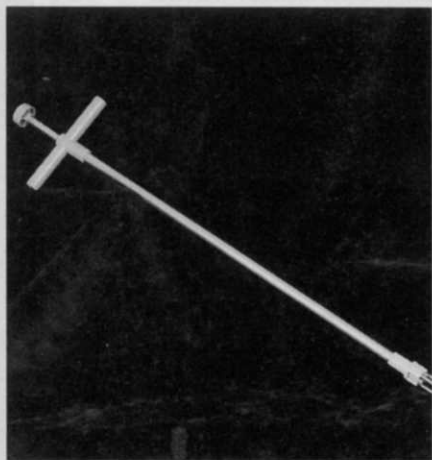


PRODUCT REVIEW

Hand-held tool removes entire weed, roots and all

"Speedy Weedy" makes weeding quick and easy.

Manufactured in Sweden, the weeder is



made of plastic, aluminum and steel. When the tool rotates in the ground, the feeder roots of the weed wrap around its three prongs. A release button ejects the weed off of the tool.

"Speedy Weedy" is 40 inches long, so it eliminates bending down or kneeling.

Circle No. 193 on Reader Inquiry Card

Sickle bar mower offers ultra-fast off-lawn mowing

Troy-Bilt Manufacturing Co. has redesigned its Sickle Bar mower for easier maneuvering around obstacle and other advantages.

In addition to an eight-inch ground clearance for mowing the roughest terrain, the new Troy-Bilt Sickle Bar Mower is available with a choice of 3.5-, 4- and 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engines and new anti-vibration mounted handlebars for greater operator comfort.

It also features larger fuel capacity, wider selection of cutter bar widths (from 34 to 42 inches) and new controls with easy use micro-switches that shut off the machine if the operator lets go while the wheels and/or blade is engaged.

The new unit also features easy power steering as a major product advancement.

Circle No. 194 on Reader Inquiry Card

Yipes! New painting device for field stripes

The Qwik Traffic Striper lays down crisp stripes on turf, asphalt or concrete.

The unit rests on a stable, 13x16-inch base formed by four rubber wheels. A wind guard feature allows striping to be completed on windy days without overspray.

Paint is available in white, yellow, red, black, green and gray aerosol.

Circle No. 195 on Reader Inquiry Card

New combination found to control summer decline

Bermudagrass summer decline complex can be controlled by combining 4 oz. of Chipco Aliette brand WDG fosetyl-Al with 8 oz. of Fore brand WP mancozeb. Fore flowable is not compatible with Aliette WDG, however.

The disease is a reaction to *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia* species, which prey on turf exposed to a variety of stress factors.

The effective concoction was tried by Dr. Leon Lucas, extension turf pathologist at North Carolina State University.

"This is the first fungicide treatment I've seen that can actually provide higher quality turf by controlling the root and

crowns associated with bentgrass decline," says Lucas.

Circle No. 196 on Reader Inquiry Card

Divot repair station reminds players to care for course

Divot Mates, free-standing divot repair tools from Par Aide Products Co., are made of durable polyethylene, and hold up to



four gallons of seed mix in a hinged container.

Circle No. 197 on Reader Inquiry Card

14 attachments available for infield surface groomer

To help construct and maintain the best possible infield surface, the Toro Company has offered the Infield Pro 5000 and Infield Pro 2000.

Both vehicles are derived from the reliable, operator-friendly design of Toro's Sand Pro line, and each offers users a full line of attachments and accessories to meet the varying needs of municipal parks and schools.

The 5000 has a fuel-efficient, cool-running 16-hp twin cylinder Vanguard engine with a fully pressurized oil lubrication system for

longer life.

The Infield Pro 2000 features a 12-hp Kohler engine with ample power to maintain a fast work rate, whether conditioning, raking or grading.

For the best field surface, attachments include the Finish Grader, Drag Mat Infield Conditioner and Spring Rake. Ten more attachments are available.

Circle No. 198 on Reader Inquiry Card



PRODUCT REVIEW

Hydrostatic, zero-turn mower hits market

Gravely International's Promaster 100 ZTR mowers are engineered to take full advantage of the latest in hydrostatic transmission benefits.

According to the company, independent control over each wheel gives the operator "unmatched" zero-turning radius maneuverability.

The Promaster 100 unit is powered by a 16- or 18-hp Kohler Magnum engine and features a hydrostatic drive system with two cast-iron wheel drive motors and two Sundstrand variable displacement pumps.

With approximate ground speeds of 0 to 5.7 mph, the Promaster 100 should mow quickly as well as smoothly. The pressure-sensitive, twin T-bar steering levers provide independent wheel control and enable the operator to maneuver as well as change from forward to reverse without changing gears.

An oil reservoir with cooler coils to lower the transmission operating temperature is standard.

Circle No. 199 on Reader Inquiry Card

Flails made for commercial mowing jobs

Kubota Tractor Corp.'s new F3620 front-mount flail mower delivers heavy-duty performance for the most difficult commercial contracts.

The F3620 cuts a 60-inch swath with 152 fine-cut knives as standard attachments. An adjustable cutting height ranges from 0.25 to 4 inches in increments of 0.25 inches.

The mower has a 6.375-inch ground clearance, pneumatic gauge wheels, a full-width rear roller and outboard-mounted grease fittings for easy maintenance.

Tip velocity is 9136 feet-per-minute. The unit is PTO-driven and performs quick and clean cutting. Its specially-designed deck distributes grass clippings evenly back into the turf.

In addition, its on-deck weight transfer system shifts weight from the rear roller to the front tires for better traction.

Kubota's F3620 weighs 515 pounds.

Circle No. 200 on Reader Inquiry Card



Inventory control gives user various tracking functions

Armor Systems of Maitland, Fla., has designed a new version of its Accounting Software.

The Inventory Control module brings more flexibility to accounting systems. Added to the software are point of sale, inventory control, accounts receivable,

purchase orders and customer information modules. Other standard features include listing items by part number with the flexibility to automatically adjust reorder levels based on sales activity. It also will print forms and labels for bins or shelves.

Landscape managers can reduce costs, increase productivity and control all business activity.

Circle No. 201 on Reader Inquiry Card

Record important data with touch of a button

Agricultural Data Systems, specialists in customized computer systems for the agricultural industry, has developed a similar system for the landscaping contractor using the same Touch Memory Buttons.

DataTrack improves efficiency and accuracy, with the touch of a button.

Information such as name, date, time, location and job performed can be recorded and flowed into many accounting packages or spreadsheets.

Information can be used for billing, bidding and payroll.

By using new technology, information can be collected at the job site instantly and accurately.

The system lets the contractor have access to information available on all job activities within seconds.

It costs \$4 to install a Touch Memory Button at each location.

Circle No. 202 on Reader Inquiry Card

Herbicide labeled expanded to include warm-season turf

DowElanco has expanded the label on its Confront post-emergence herbicide to include warm-season turf.

Confront controls up to 35 species of broadleaf weeds, including narrowleaf plantain, henbit, prostrate spurge and other broadleaves.

University and private cooperator trials have determined that Confront is "nearly 100 percent effective" against dandelion, clover and plantain, and other problem species.

Confront is now labeled for use on Southern turfgrasses, including bahiagrass, bermudagrass, centipedegrass and tall fescue.

A non-phenoxy herbicide, Confront can be used in all turf areas including lawns, parks, golf courses, commercial grounds, residential areas and other public facilities such as hospitals and schools.

Circle No. 203 on Reader Inquiry Card

MARKET SHOWCASE

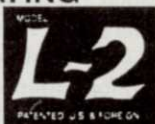
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Assistant Superintendent. Will direct and participate in the construction, renovation and maintenance of the golf course and country club. Supervises the operation, maintenance, and repair of motorized and mechanical golf equipment, pumps, irrigation and drainage systems. Supervises and participates in pest control method and materials, proper use of fertilizers and soil conditions. Assists in planning, scheduling of all tasks and practices employed on the golf course. 40 hours per week, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., \$31,000.00 per year. Must have 3 years as an Assistant Superintendent or 3 years as an Office Manager/Assistant Superintendent of golf course. Must have current Florida Commercial Applicator Restricted Use Pesticides License. Will supervise 22 employees. Send resume to: Job Service of Florida, 2660 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311-1347. Re: Job Order Number FL-1014266. 6/94

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LANDSCAPE SALES- Quality, growth oriented landscape management company seeks an ambitious sales professional to work in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area. Must have a minimum of five years experience estimating all phases of landscape/site management. Excellent compensation and benefits with room for advancement. EOE. Please send resume to: LM Box 509. 7/94

LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS... THE GROUNDSKEEPER, AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY, is expanding throughout the Southwest. Openings for a new branch office in LAS VEGAS for a Sales Person and a Supervisor. Successful applicants must be self-motivated, organized and have 2-3 yrs exp. Supervisor must have strong supervisory skills. Bi-lingual (Eng/Span) preferred. Sales person must be dependable and have some landscaping sales exp. Pre-employment drug screening and a valid drivers license required. Excellent benefits and pay DOE. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 98347, Las Vegas, NV 89193, ATTN: Curtis. EEO/MFDV 6/94

HELP WANTED

FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVES: Growth Products, Ltd., a progressive, fast growing manufacturer of Professional and Agricultural liquid fertilizers and organics is seeking experienced degreed sales people for mid-atlantic, north-central, south-central, and south-west territories. Experience in turf/ornamental, greenhouse, and tree care markets is desirable. Please send resume and salary history to: Growth Products, Ltd., P.O. Box 1259, White Plains, NY 10602, Attn: Human Resource Dept. 7/94

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE- IRRIGATION SUPERVISOR: For largest landscape maintenance co. in nation. Need minimum 3 years supervisory experience in trouble shooting, scheduling, training and assisting in repair and retrofit large commercial irrigation systems. Thorough knowledge of all types of systems. English/Spanish bilingual a plus. Send resumes to: ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC., 825 Mabury Road, San Jose, CA 95133. 6/94

LANDSCAPE SALES- Moon Landscaping, Inc., one of the fastest growing site management companies on the east coast, is looking for a full-time qualified, career oriented sales professional for the northern New Jersey area. Previous experience with landscape firm required. Ability to estimate both landscape and site maintenance. Must be aggressive and self motivated. Excellent opportunity with compensation and benefits. Please direct resume to Moon Landscaping, Inc., Box 482, Yardley, PA 19067, attn. H. Shannon Wilson or call 215-968-5071 and ask for Garth. 7/94

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS needed with established background in commercial landscape and irrigation. We are looking for quality conscientious, energetic, team oriented industry professionals. Must be able to make decisions and be creative, self-motivated with strong organizational skills. We provide continuous training and offer competitive salary/benefits. Good driving record and pre-employment drug test required. EOE. Send resume to Northwest Landscape Industries, 16075 S.W. Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tigard, OR 97224. 6/94

GROUNDS MANAGEMENT SALES: Central N.J. area, Background in sales to corporate clientele. Strong motivation, proven sales experience. Must be articulate, organized, aggressive. Duties: prospecting, estimating, sales. Send resume. Control Services, 737 New Durham Road, Edison, NJ 08817. Fax (908)548-4359. 7/94

BUSINESS WANTED

BUSINESS WANTED: Large landscape maintenance company located in the mid-Atlantic region is looking to acquire a landscape maintenance company in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area. Must have annual sales in excess of \$250,000 in maintaining commercial accounts. Please respond to: LM Box 510. 7/94

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