IF THIS IS WHAT YOU THINK PRIMO DOES TO YOUR GRASS,

Lots of people know that Primo® regulates the growth of grass. But not as many understand how.

Primo doesn't stunt turf. Instead, it redirects the grass's growth.

Unlike other growth regulators, which actually stop cell division, grass treated with Primo will still be actively growing, producing the same amount of new cells. Only now the cells will be smaller. Smaller cells mean a more compact plant.

Nutrients that otherwise would be needed above ground are now channeled into the roots, giving you a thicker stand, and up to 25% more root mass. So the grass can more efficiently take up water and nutrients.

And Primo is foliar-absorbed, so there's less risk of inconsistent uptake. The result? The easiest-to-manage, best-looking turf you can imagine.

It's easy to see why all roads lead to Primo.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Trade name(s)</th>
<th>Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asulam</td>
<td>Aulox</td>
<td>grass weed control in St. Augustinegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>atrazine</td>
<td>Aatrex, others</td>
<td>pre- and post-broadleaf and grass weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bentazon</td>
<td>Basagran T/O</td>
<td>primarily used for yellow nutsedge control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bentazon + atrazine</td>
<td>Prompt</td>
<td>yellow nutsedge and broadleaf weed control in centipedegrass, St. Augustine grass and zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bromoxynil</td>
<td>Buctril</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D</td>
<td>numerous formulations</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D + dicamba</td>
<td>Eight-One</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D + dichlorprop</td>
<td>Weedone DPC Amine, Weedone DPC Ester</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D + mecoprop</td>
<td>Lescopar; 2 Plus 2</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D + mecoprop + dicamba</td>
<td>Trimec Classic; Trimec 992; Three-Way</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,4-D + mecoprop + dichlorprop</td>
<td>Weedestroy Triamine; Weedestroy Tri-Ester</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dicamba</td>
<td>Banvel</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diclofop-methyl2</td>
<td>Iloxan</td>
<td>goosegrass control in golf course bermudagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diquat</td>
<td>Reward</td>
<td>winter annual weed control in dormant bermuda grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSMA</td>
<td>numerous formulations</td>
<td>grass weed control in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ehofoantesate</td>
<td>Prograss</td>
<td>pre- and early post-<em>poa annua</em> (annual bluegrass) control in overseeded bermudagrass. Common bermuda grass suppression in St. Augustine grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenoxaprop</td>
<td>Acclaim</td>
<td>annual grass weed control and suppression of bermudagrass in zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glyphosate</td>
<td>Roundup</td>
<td>winter annual weed control in dormant bermudagrass and bahiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haalosulfuron</td>
<td>Manage</td>
<td>controls yellow and purple nutsedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imazaquin</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>nutsedge and wild garlic control in warm-season turfgrasses (except bahia grass). Also controls certain annual broadleaf weeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mecoprop</td>
<td>Mecomex; Lescopex</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mecoprop + 2,4-D + dicamba</td>
<td>Southern Trimec, Trimec Bent</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCPA + mecoprop + dicamba</td>
<td>Trimec Encore, Encore DSC</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCPA + mecoprop + dichlorprop</td>
<td>Weedestroy Triamine II, Weedestroy Tri-Ester II</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metribuzin</td>
<td>Sencor Turf</td>
<td>goosegrass control in bermudagrass. Also controls prostrate spurge, winter annual broadleaf weeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSMA</td>
<td>numerous formulations</td>
<td>grass weed control in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSMA + 2,4-D + mecoprop + dicamba</td>
<td>Trimec Plus</td>
<td>grass and broadleaf weed control in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pronamid</td>
<td>Kerb T/O</td>
<td>annual bluegrass control in bermuda grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sethoxydim</td>
<td>Vantage</td>
<td>annual grass control and suppression of bahiagrass in centipedegrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>triclopyr + clopyralid</td>
<td>Confront</td>
<td>broadleaf weed control in bermudagrass, centipedegrass &amp; zoysiagrass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Refer to the herbicide label for a complete listing of tolerant turfgrasses and labeled application sites.
2 Diclofop-methyl has a state label for use in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.
Our scientists have been working with a wide range of organic ingredients to determine the optimum formulation for root growth and plant health. The result is ROOTS2, a complex formulation that has proven significantly better than any of the first generation bio-stimulants, including the original ROOTS.

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Post-emergence use suggestions

- Apply post-emergence herbicides to small, actively-growing weeds. Perennial and annual weeds that are growing under good soil moisture conditions at moderate air temperatures are easier to control than weeds that are stressed due to adverse environmental conditions.
- Target the application to coincide with good soil moisture conditions at air temperatures of 60-90°F. Applications on cold, wintery days, or to drought-stressed weeds will result in poor weed control.
- Post-emergence herbicide use should be avoided when turfgrasses and weeds are stressed due to high air temperatures or drought.
- The tolerance of warm-season turfgrasses to post-emergence herbicides decreases at air temperatures greater than 90°F when turfgrasses are drought-stressed or when they are growing under high soil moisture and high relative humidity conditions.
- Herbicides that contain 2,4-D, dicamba, mecoprop, dichlorprop, imazaquin, MSMA and DSMA should not be applied at high air temperatures (greater than 90°F), since there is an increased risk of unacceptable turfgrass injury. Always follow the most restrictive warning on the label. Additionally, the tolerance of warm-season turfgrasses to herbicides is generally lower during spring green-up than when the turfgrass is dormant or after full green-up. Fortunately, research has shown that the decrease in turfgrass quality that may result from the use of post-emergence herbicides during green-up is temporary and persists for 2 to 6 weeks after application. If a dense weed population requires a post-emergence herbicide during green-up, use only the lowest recommended or one-half the recommended rate to minimize herbicide injury to the turfgrass. If needed, the application can be repeated after full green-up.
- Single applications at high rates generally cause more turfgrass injury than repeat applications at low rates. Additionally, single, high rate applications often do not control perennial weeds. The repeat application is usually made at intervals of seven to 14 days after the first application, or when regrowth of the weed is noted.
- Mowing schedules must be coordinated with post-emergence herbicide applications. Generally, mowing should be delayed three to four days before or after a post-emergence herbicide application to increase the leaf surface area of the weed and spray deposition. The delay after application is necessary to allow adequate time for herbicide absorption and translocation in the target weed species.
- Do not apply post-emergence herbicides immediately before rainfall or irrigation. Rainfall or irrigation immediately after application can wash the herbicide from the treated weed foliage and decrease control. On irrigated sites, watering drought-stressed weeds one to two days before a post-emergence herbicide application will usually improve control of the problem weeds species.
- Use surfactants and crop oil concentrates according to label directions.
- Calibrate all spray equipment and train the operator.

—Dr. Murphy

Problem weeds

**Nutsedge(s).** Basagran T/O will provide good control of yellow nutsedge, but not of purple nutsedge. Monthly applications of MSMA or DSMA in tolerant turfgrasses in the late spring and summer months can suppress the growth of both species. With the exception of bahiagrass and carpetgrass, Image can be used in warm-season turfgrasses for yellow and purple nutsedge control. MSMA to Image generally improves nutsedge control in MSMA-tolerant turfgrasses.

A repeat application, 6- to 8-weeks after the first, of Image or Image+MSMA is required to control nutsedge during the summer months. Manage (halosulfuron) is now registered for nutsedge control in warm-season turfgrasses. Manage provides good to excellent control of purple and yellow nutsedge. A repeat application 6- to 10-weeks after the first application may be needed for season-long control. Warm-season turfgrasses have excellent tolerance to Manage.

**Virginia Buttonweed.** The most difficult to control broadleaf weed in southern turfgrasses. This warm-season perennial reproduces by seed, cut plant pieces, and fleshy roots. Research shows that repeat applications, at intervals of three to six weeks, of a two-way or three-way herbicide is needed in the summer to suppress Virginia buttonweed.

Research in Mississippi shows that 2,4-D undergoes more translocation to the roots of Virginia buttonweed than other broadleaf herbicides. Therefore, two-way or three-way herbicides with a high concentration of 2,4-D may provide better Virginia buttonweed control than products low in 2,4-D or products that do not contain 2,4-D.

**Wild garlic.** Fall (November) plus a winter (January-February) application of 2,4-D or two-way or three-way products that contain a phenoxy herbicide or dicamba over a two to three year period will control wild garlic. Early-, to mid-winter applications of Image have also provided good to excellent control of emerged wild garlic.

—Dr. Murphy
planting beds, balcony plantings, cost estimation, natural and electric lighting, irrigation and more. Particularly useful to those in the field are five case studies which demonstrate design and construction processes for an interior landscape project. 288 pages, hardcover.

**Interior Landscape Design**
by Nelson Hammer, ASLA
LSM-BK-800 $65.00

This reference discusses the basic principles of interior landscape design and covers such topics as tree planting, designing large and engineers, this book features descriptions of proven procedures, includes useful charts, tables, checklists and teaching diagrams, and offers innovative ideas and fresh thoughts of direct application in the design studio, drafting room and field. 331 pages, hardcover.

**Landscape Architecture**
A Manual of Site Planning and Design
by John Ormsbee Simonds
LSM-BK-803 $73.00

Written for landscape architects, architects, planners and students, this text discusses the establishment and maintenance practices used by successful turfgrass managers and reviews relevant scientific theory as well as practical management skills. 451 pages, hardcover.

**Urban Trees**
A Guide for Selection, Maintenance, and Master Planning
by Leonard I. Phillips, Jr.
LSM-BK-801 $37.00

This complete guide to urban tree care and planning covers everything from new methodologies for cataloging existing trees to selecting the right species for your climate and site to running a high-power, cost-saving maintenance program and much more. Landscape architects, urban foresters, municipal administrators and students will learn how to develop effective municipal street tree master plans, take street tree inventory, choose the best trees for a community, care for trees and promote public awareness. 273 pages, hardcover.

**The Process of Landscape Design**
by Seamus W. Flor
LSM-BK-802 $40.00

Five completed projects illustrate the general principles followed by landscape architects in developing designs from concept to implementation. Each case includes a summary of the principles which generated the design; a study of the architect's response to special conditions; a description of the stages of development; and an assessment of performance since completion. The five projects cover: landscape planning, urban regeneration, new town development, university campus and recreational development. 160 pages, hardcover.

**Landscape Science & Management**
by Robert D. Emmons
LSM-BK-805 $37.50

Intended for turfgrass managers and students, this text discusses turfgrass weeds, diseases, insects, invertebrates and vertebrates are described and reviewed problem data and other details. 361 pages, hardcover.

**Soil Science & Management Second Edition**
by Edward J. Palmer
LSM-BK-804 $39.95

This text introduces the reader to the soil and water resources of the United States, presents soil science theory as it applies to soil use by the grower, shows how soil is used by farmers and horticulturists, and covers the basics of soil and water conservation. An instructor's guide, summaries of each chapter and review questions are provided. 514 pages, hardcover.

**Ornamental Horticulture**
Science, Operations & Management 2nd Edition
by Jack E. Ingels
LSM-BK-807 $40.95

Offering a balanced study of ornamental horticulture as an applied science, a craft, a profession and a business, this introductory text reviews plant structure, the role of soil, the plant classification system, growth regulators, reproduction, and pests and their control. Floral design; the interior use of plants; landscape design, installation and maintenance; turf selection, establishment and maintenance; and techniques of plant propagation are also examined, along with the floriculture, nursery and landscape industries, greenhouse and nursery production techniques and business considerations. 554 pages, hardcover.

**Managing Turfgrass Pests**
by Thomas L. Watschke, Peter H. Demoeden, and David J. Shetlar
LSM-BK-766 $69.95

Emphasizing the philosophy of minimizing pests through well-defined and organized cultural practices, this book contains specific recommendations for a number of pests. Turfgrass weeds, diseases, insects, invertebrates and vertebrates are described and cultural, biological, mechanical and chemical solutions are provided. 361 pages, hardcover.

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Chippers, shredders to lead equipment market growth

EPA restrictions and more golf maintenance will drive equipment sales.

by James E. Guyette
Contributing Editor

CLEVELAND—An industry analyst predicts that you will be called upon to chip and shred more brush, adapt to using new models of electrically-powered equipment, and service more golf courses. Residential clients will be more plentiful, too.

Chippers and shredders are expected to be the highest growth category within the power equipment marketplace, according to a study here by The Freedonia Group.

An anticipated annual expansion rate of 16 percent through 1998 is largely based on increased environmental concerns among consumers and restrictions on yard waste being enforced by state and local governments, says analyst Kathleen O'Brien, who authored the 225-page study. It sells for $2,800.

"Environmental regulations are also causing changes in manufacturing," she notes. "For instance, new EPA standards that will regulate the amount of air emissions are forcing manufacturers to redesign their products."

Expect electric tools to play a bigger role in the power equipment marketplace based on mandates from the EPA. O'Brien predicts that the total electric market will grow by close to 20 percent annually, with the market reaching $5.8 billion at manufacturers' prices. Commercial gear sales may see a 6 percent yearly increase based on the construction of more new golf courses, a strong replacement demand from municipalities and a rise in dual-income households that will create a bigger demand for professional landscaping services.

Exports are another equipment issue as manufacturers cope with a largely mature U.S. marketplace. "The commercial export market will be especially strong due to the fact that most other nations do not have established commercial lawn and garden equipment-producing firms," O'Brien forecasts, adding that "the explosive popularity of golf in certain areas creates an instant need for a wide variety of commercial maintenance equipment."

Contact: The Freedonia Group, 3570 Warrensville Center Rd., Suite 201, Cleveland, OH 44122; phone (216) 921-6800

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**U.S. DEMAND FOR POWER LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1983</th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>% annual growth</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment shipments</td>
<td>2777</td>
<td>5458</td>
<td>6820</td>
<td>7.0 4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>2510</td>
<td>4603</td>
<td>5710</td>
<td>6.3 4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawnmowers</td>
<td>1303</td>
<td>2528</td>
<td>3060</td>
<td>6.9 3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>2075</td>
<td>2650</td>
<td>5.6 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>12.3 5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(figures in millions of dollars)

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Power blower ban is unconstitutional in New York village

SCARSDALE, N.Y.—Scarsdale Village Justice Virginia Knaplund found the June, 1993 seasonal ban on gasoline-powered leaf blowers unconstitutional last month.

The ban was contested by Trolio Landscaping of Mount Vernon, which was represented in court by Thomas Beirne of Cuddy & Feder of nearby White Plains.

Scarsdale is a community just north of Yonkers, very near New York City and within six miles of both Connecticut and New Jersey.

The decision found the Village of Scarsdale regulation "arbitrary, irrational and unduly oppressive." The statute must be found unconstitutional, wrote Judge Knaplund, "if an ordinance is unduly oppressive and a valid government objective can be accomplished by less restrictive means," according to an continued on next page

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ELSEWHERE

Early thaw could hurt foliage,
page 37

No smugness in Washington,
page 38

Hort info now on CD-ROM,
page 38

This month's slate of meetings,
page 39

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36 Landscape Management, March 1995
January thaw may lead to fewer spring flowers in northern states

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—You may have noticed flowering bulbs sending up shoots, and buds opening on shrubs and trees during January's warm spell. This may be bad news for some spring flowers, says J. Robert Nuss, professor of ornamental horticulture at Penn State.

"Warm weather, thawed soil and plenty of moisture can cause woody ornamentals and many spring flowering bulbs to break dormancy and begin growing," says Nuss. "With temperatures of 60°F and higher in January, the flower buds on many trees and shrubs have expanded and have even begun to show color.

"These buds are likely to be killed during the freezing weather that followed (in February and early March)," Nuss adds. Shrubs that flower early are most likely to suffer from bud damage: forsythia, flowering quince, jasmine, weigela, lilac, witch hazel and some kinds of viburnum and rhododendron.

"The extent of injury will depend on the amount of available moisture, how much the buds have opened, and how cold it gets during the remainder of winter," Nuss says. "Plants at higher elevations and in colder areas probably have remained dormant and won't be injured."

There is nothing that landscape managers can do about the problem. However, foliage on spring bulbs sending up premature shoots probably will not be injured much, Nuss notes.

He cautions that premature foliage will need some protection against nibbling rabbits. "A thin layer of straw or mulch over the leaves will conceal them," he says. "This also helps keep the shoots from being crushed by ice and snow."

If flowers are lost, take heart—it doesn't mean the plant will die. "Most trees and shrubs are quite durable and can survive temperature fluctuations," Nuss concludes. "In any case, those buds that survive will be all the more welcome this spring.

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No time for smugness in Washington

**ORLANDO, Fla.—** Don’t get too smug about the recent silence of lawn care critics, particularly in Washington D.C., warns LCO Robert Andrews.

“Historically, when do we get into trouble? When we’re not under the gun,” says Andrews who owns a lawn care company near Indianapolis. He made these comments at a seminar he conducted here in January on behalf of PLCAA.

Lawn care, selection and care of trees and shrubs, and control of weeds and plant diseases, is available from the University of Oklahoma. The 448-page text contains information useful to plant pathologists, agronomists, foresters and horticulturists. To order, send $55 to the University of Oklahoma Press, P.O. Box 787, Norman, OK 73070 or call (800) 627-7377. Stipulate publication #2698-1.

**PRECIPITATION RATES...** A new irrigation training program entitled “Precipitation Rates and Sprinkler Irrigation,” from Hunter Industries, is for educators, distributors, contractors and irrigation designers. It includes an instructor’s manual, student manuals, 75 slides and a quick-calc slide rule. Cost is $45; additional student manuals are $1.50 each. To order, call (619) 744-5240.

**TREE TRIMMING MANUAL...** ACRT Institute is selling “The Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Certification Manual” for $120. Using it for training will fulfill OSHA’s special training requirement that went into effect Jan. 31. The manual has more than 200 illustrations. To order, or for more information, call ACRT at (800) 622-2562 or write ACRT, P.O. Box 219, Kent, OH 44240.

Landscape managers told to educate the public

**TWIN FALLS, Idaho.—** Members of the Environmental Care Association were told by Doug Fender that they must become more proactive by sharing scientifically-based facts about the benefits of turfgrass with the public.

Fender, executive director of Turfgrass Producers International, made his comments during the organization’s annual meeting here earlier this year.

He said everyone in the turfgrass industry must counter the pseudo-scientific attacks by people he termed “eco-terrorists” during his hour-long presentation.

“What does a rain forest do that a lawn doesn’t also do?” Fender asked rhetorically. “Both lawns and rain forests are made up of thousands or millions of plants. The average lawn...is a forest of grass. Who knows: maybe like the hope we hold for the rain forests, the cure for many diseases may be waiting to be discovered, right under our feet.”
SUPPLIER'S CORNER

- Tadd Seitz relinquishes his CEO position to Theodore Host, who had been COO at The Scotts Co. Seitz will continue to be actively involved with the company as chairman of the Board of Directors.
- American Cyanamid expands its Turf, Ornamental and Pest Control Products Group with the promotion of Brian Stidham to national sales manager and Lendel Schutzman to key accounts manager. Other changes: Gary Curl to senior market manager, Kyle Miller to senior market development manager and Dr. John Thomas to product development manager.
- Up to $1,000 will be awarded to each of 23 U.S. universities by AgrEvo USA as part of its Turf Scholarship Program. Scholarships are being awarded through this month.
- Richard E. DeVaughn is new vice president, engineering at Jacobsen Division of Textron.
- Bill Scheele is new to the Encore Manufacturing engineering department.
- Robert F. Killian Jr. is new senior vice president of sales and marketing at Kubota Tractor Corp.
- New at Lofts Seed: Dr. Richard Hurley promoted to vice president, director of research and professional sales; Vickie Wallace to technical service coordinator, John Brader to manager of the Maryland facility. Mary Beth Ruh is new manager of the new Allentown warehousing/shiping branch.
- The Toro Co. forms a new Recycling Equipment Division to manufacture and market equipment for the growing global recycling equipment industry. Mike Hoffman is managing director.
- Lofts Seed awards scholarships of $1000 and $2000 to 14 students in the name of co-founder Peter Selmer Loft, the 11th straight year such presentations have been made.
- Jerry Curtice, long of Aquatrols, retires. Taking his place is Jim Turner, previously southeast territory manager.
- Donald Dungjen is appointed national market manager for Buckner Irrigation's residential and commercial products division.
- Zeneca Professional Products names Ernie Mahlmann technical sales lead.
- Operating profits reached £14.4 million in nine months to September 1994 for Ransomes plc of Ipswich, England, parent company of Ransomes America Corp. That compares to £2.4 million for 12 months in 1993, which includes exceptional costs of £5.8 million.
- Guy Mikel is promoted to vice president of the Specialty Business Unit at Sandoz Agro. Also, Terri Lohmann becomes marketing services associate.
- Hunter Industries has seven new regional sales and service reps: Jeffrey Bower (Fla.), Steve Emerson (no. Calif., no. Nev.), John George (no. Texas, Okla., no. N.M.), Mark McKerrnan (cent. Calif., so. Nev.), Bruce Morgan (central plains), Don Neely (so. Texas) and Todd Van Dyne (N. Eng., east Canada).

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

APRIL

22-29: American Society of Golf Course Architects annual meeting, Scotland. Phone: ASGCA, (312) 372-7090.
25-26: Sports Turf Management for Professionals course, Davis, Calif. Phone: University of California, (800) 752-0881 or (916) 757-8777.
29: Certified Landscape Professional exam, sponsored by Associated Landscape Contractors of America, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, N.C. Phone: ALCA, (703) 620-6363.

Correction

- In the January 1995 issue LM mistakenly reported that Providence creeping benting had been developed at the Univ. of Arizona. The developer, in fact, was the Univ. of Rhode Island.

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Texture and color combine to brighten water park surroundings.

by James E. Guyette

There’s nothing fishy about the selection of plant materials at Sea World of Aurora, Ohio. The aquarium-oriented theme park avoids missing the boat by following through with themes when choosing the flowering fauna that adorns the grounds.

“Not a marigold or tree goes in unless it’s part of a theme,” says Rob McCartney, Sea World horticulturist. “We theme everything—and at Sea World we use aquatic colors.”

Blues and greens are commonplace, and plants are carefully picked to carry forward a certain aspect or illusion that coincides with the area to be decorated. One striking example is a flowerbed outside a shark tank that bears a striking resemblance to an underwater scene—yet it’s done entirely with above-ground plantings.

“We’ve done a lot of things with color, and now we’re doing things with texture,” McCartney explains. In addition to items like the afore-mentioned aquarium area, efforts are made to reel in the patrons tactfully.

“We’re focusing more and more on touch. People love to touch things,” says McCartney. “We’ve positioned our baskets (of flowers) so people can touch them.”

Patrons who want a flower in their hair or one for the baby’s stroller won’t be forced to walk the plank for borrowing one from the many color spots at Sea World.

“If you want to pick flowers—fine. But we don’t have problems with people destroying our park like other (amusement) parks have,” McCartney notes (the clientele has a healthy helping of grandparents and small children to help put a damper on hooliganism). “One reason is that we don’t have many 15- to 17-year-olds is because we don’t have rides.”

Bubbling with enthusiasm—The texture technique is applied throughout the entire park as people are enticed to become a part of the actual decor. Roped-off regions and barricaded byways are kept to a minimum. Large rocks are placed so that they make an inviting spot to rest.

“We have people sitting on boulders when there’s a bench right there—and then they become part of the landscape.”

Catering to creature comforts is a Sea World strategy that can be applied by landscape managers at other public enterprises. “Find out what people want,” McCartney advises. “Taking a survey is something you can do.”

If people want shade—give it to them.” So many amusement parks seem to be intent on punishing people with acres and acres of concrete, boiling under a hot sun, yet most folks are quite content with “simple things like shade and a place to sit on the grass.”

Sea World is user-friendly in that a man taking his family on an outing to look at fancy fish—when in reality he’d rather be sitting down to dinner to eat one—can find enjoyment by taking in the natural beauty supplied by McCartney and his staff. Hanging planters are recommended for areas that might not lend themselves to conventional flower beds.

“A little touch of color in an area where you don’t expect it is good,” says McCartney, who spoke at the Northeast Ohio Green Industry Educational and Winter Trade Show. Proper planning can add a lot to such seemingly mundane installations. “Around a lemonade stand, use lemon-colored marigolds.”

Plants are adjusted to match climate conditions and ensure a suitable display. “People spend more than $20 to come to Sea World in May and to come to Sea World in August, but the people in May also deserve to see (an acceptable floral show); we can’t tell them it’s too early in the year,” says McCartney.

A species that is prone to disease or pest problems is given the deep-six. “We don’t bother with fungicides and all that. If it looks bad, we rip it out,” McCartney explains.

The park’s floral foundation is enhanced by getting all the other employees involved when the big spring sowing session is planned. “We plant all of them in 15 days’ time,” McCartney reports. “We get accountants and everyone’s mother” to help with the landscaping.

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