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In national trials under both low and high maintenance conditions, Ram I ranked third and fourth respectively in overall turf quality.

Mean Turfgrass Quality Ratings of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars for Each Month Grown Under High Maintenance at Seventeen Locations in the U.S. & Canada 1991 Data

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Under high maintenance, Ram I ranked fourth out of 125 entries.

Mean Turfgrass Quality Ratings of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars for Each Month Grown Under Low Maintenance at Sixteen Locations in the U.S. 1991 Data

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Under low maintenance, Ram I ranked third out of 62 entries.

So whether you’re producing sod that will become someone’s well-manicured lawn or seeding a low-maintenance area, count on a proven reliable...Ram I.
18 ISSUES '98: PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & PRACTICES
The Green Industry faces a big year. Product testing is expected to do the impossible; employers face more OSHA regs; posting/notification precedents may axe good programs.
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SHARON CONNERS
New low odor technology
Same outstanding performance

“The low odor is an advantage with our high-end commercial accounts where customers are coming and going all day, as well as with our high-end residential accounts who don’t need to close their windows or postpone outdoor activities to avoid the pesticide odor.”

Tom Mieyal, General Manager, of a major Cleveland, Ohio lawn care company.

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Happy New Year from all of us at LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, "The Voice of the Green Industry."

Our cover story, "Issues '98", is a look at the key legislative initiatives currently at work on the state, local and federal level. Check it out if you want to stay current.

Key issues include product testing mandates from the EPA as it relates to the Food Quality Protection Act; product labeling; posting and notification; and OSHA regulations.

Nothing is more confusing than information from the Environmental Protection Agency. Basically, testing of control products must now include a wide array of tests to determine if these already well-tested products will harm children over the course of time.

In Ohio, some cities have passed laws (the public doesn't get a vote) mandating helmets for kids on bikes. This EPA/FQPA stuff follows that line of thinking: try to eliminate every element of risk in daily life.

The makers of various pesticides must therefore jump through a variety of testing hoops in virtually no time. Useful products may be dropped by companies that can't spend the millions in reregistration.

On the posting/notification front, there's rumblings in New York about a local regulation that would set a precedent that the Professional Lawn Care Association says would put some companies out of business due to the amount of time that would be required to notify all the neighbors. Golf courses have a variety of environmental issues on front and back burners.

Endangered species, noise reduction and water quality lead the way, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association says it will continue to monitor the proceedings.

As a Green Industry professional who would like to stay in business, you might want to consider helping with the lobbying efforts of whichever association to which you belong, and learn how these pending laws might affect the way you run your company.

Then, get ready for some changes, whenever they happen.

UNIVERSITY CLIPS

UC offers horticulture degree
Students can now earn a four-year degree in horticulture at the University of Cincinnati. The program contains a business and horticulture track, and is the only such baccalaureate program in the area, reports Tom Smith, academic coordinator for the program, which is offered through UC's college of Evening and Continuing Education.

Courses include environmental law; ecology; plant pathology and disease management; landscape design and entrepreneurial accounting.

Tom Fryman, adjunct professor and landscape designer with Earthscapes, Inc., teaches a Landscape Design Course. In it, students can work with realistic demands and settings.

New horticulture professionals are needed, says Smith.

"The Green Industry's for-profit enterprises like golf courses, nurseries and landscapers generate more than $800 million in the region," explains Smith.

"The need for qualified people who can serve as leaders in both management and field positions is one of the major blocks limiting our ability to grow," says Tom Gear, president of T.R. Gear Landscaping.
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Keynote Speaker
March 3rd
Jim Palmer
Hall of Fame pitcher
from the Baltimore Orioles

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Fall fertilization concerns

We have been providing late-fall fertilization for lawns for a number of years. We have noticed an increase of snow mold disease or winter injury problems. Employees feel that the late-fall feeding could be partially responsible.

-YOUR STATE

Your employees may be correct based on some research that late-season fertilization can reduce cold hardiness and increase the risk of winter injury and/or snow mold disease under certain situations.

However, in recent years many professional companies have been providing late-fall fertilization programs without an increase of problems.

Interest in late-season fertilization has also spread to the public because of agronomic benefits such as promoting increased root and shoot development during late winter and early spring, as well as early-spring green-up.

Winter injury and/or low temperature disease can occur if high rates (more than 2 lb. of N/1000 sq. ft.) of quick-release sources of nitrogen are used. This type of problem can be expected if the treatments are not applied at a proper time.

Reports also indicate that late-season fertilization should be made when turfgrass is still green. This could be around October and/or November in your area. Prior to this period, for example September, an application of 1 lb. of N/1000 sq. ft. is recommended so that turf will be green during the late-fall application period. Avoid a high rate of nitrogen during September to prevent lush growth which will be susceptible to winter injury and/or snow mold disease.

If there is a history of snow mold or other low temperature basidiomycetes fungal diseases in the lawns consider using specific snow mold active fungicides.

Soon after winter, rake the matted grass blades. If the late-fall fertilization is properly applied, the spring treatments can be delayed with good agronomic benefits.

Moss, algae, lichen on trees

Some of our client’s trees have extensive moss, algae and lichen growth. What can control this?

-YOUR STATE

Selectively prune to improve sunlight and air movement. Applying copper-containing products, such as Tri-basic Copper Sulfate, should help manage the problem. Caution, copper-containing products can stain the surfaces they contact. Moss, algae and lichen present a problem in a moist, humid environment. It’s most common in the South. Some types of moss, like Spanish moss (Ball moss), are a herbaceous perennial. Spanish moss is an epiphytic plant, capable of absorbing moisture and nutrients from the atmosphere. It does not enter the living tissue like mistletoe or other parasitic plants. Lots of moss can reduce sunlight on trees and, indirectly affects their photosynthesis.

Other types of moss, algae and lichen also seek shelter on trees. They do not harm the trees directly. However, in many situations, their growth becomes unsightly.

Iron’s effects on turf

Is there any real advantage in using iron on turfgrass?

-YOUR STATE

Depending on soil properties, turfgrass species and geography, there may be some advantage in using iron on turfgrass. Reports indicate that iron can improve the color and can possibly reduce the need for using high rates of nitrogen.

Unpublished reports suggest that the results obtained from iron-containing products are quite variable. Non-chelated iron products appear to be better than the chelated products. We have not seen any appreciable color difference over untreated Kentucky blue, rye and fescue mix turfgrass using several iron products on the market even after applying four times a year. Some iron sources can be phytotoxic and a few can stain non-targeted areas.

As far as your question concerning “real advantages”, the best thing to do is to try different products on a small scale. Read and follow label specifications for details on rates and timing.

LM