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Scaling the wall

This spray technician found the solution to minimizing the number of times he had to climb a treacherous wall to treat for crabgrass

Moon Landscaping

Owner: Walter C. Flowers
Location: Yardley, PA
Year started: 1967
2000 gross revenues: n/a
Services offered: Full service landscaping
Employees: 350+



Spray technician Rob Connor (inset) knew the wall (above) presented a safety problem.

Rob Connor, spray technician with Moon Landscaping, Yardley, PA, knew the wall at Horscham Point shopping center in Montgomery County, PA, presented a safety problem as soon as he saw it. About 25-ft.-high with ornamental beds on multiple tiers, it stretched nearly 300 ft. in one direction and more than 100 ft. in another.

"The shopping center had just opened. Our nurseries had supplied many of the ornamental shrubs and trees at the site," Connor explains. "Our Moon Site Division, which specializes in maintaining landscapes around business and industrial campuses, had the maintenance contract. This meant I had to climb that wall next to a main intersection several times to be sure the beds were weed-free."

Connor didn't look forward to the task, for he had to spray with a backpack above busy streets. He wanted to control weeds with one pass, but in late April, some crabgrass had already begun to emerge.

As a customer of Lesco in Warminster, PA, Connor explained his dilemma to Brian Glassey, sales manager. "He told me about the wall," says Glassey. "It was obvious he wasn't anxious to go up on it more than he absolutely had to."

"When he mentioned that some crabgrass had already begun to appear, I knew

traditional crabgrass herbicides would not work," Glassey continues. "Instead, I recommended he try Dimension (dithiopyr) by Rohm and Haas, which has both pre- and post-emergent activity against crabgrass."

Using a backpack sprayer, Connor applied the material in late April. He followed the labeled application rate and needed less than the 2.5-gal. container he got from Glassey. "This was less than half the amount of other products I used for similar-sized beds in the past," Connor says. "Even though I used less herbicide and we had crabgrass emerging in some places prior to using it, the results surpassed my expectations."

Connor only had to treat one escape three weeks later. As a result, he was able to minimize the number of times he went up the wall during the full season. "Three times — that's it," he says. "I went up to spray Dimension in April, then up again about a month later to get one escape. I also climbed the wall again in July to make sure the beds were clean. They were."

"The wall was clean, too," he adds. "Because the herbicide is clear, it did not stain the sandstone-colored stone facing of the wall, either."

— For more information, contact Rohm and Haas at 800/987-0467.

Seeders and spreaders 101

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A tight budget kept Jim Cornelius, Supervisor of Maintenance and Grounds at Pennsylvania's West Chester School District, from acquiring labor-saving grounds care equipment. The lack of equipment kept his labor costs high for grounds maintenance jobs such as top-dressing athletic fields.

"There are lots of choices when it comes to specialized equipment," Cornelius says, "but by the time you add up the costs of all the ones you need, you're way beyond what you can afford."

Cornelius needed many answers in one package. "We needed something we could afford, first of all," he says. "Then we looked for something that was the right size and versatile enough for us to use it a lot."

The answer for him was the Millcreek topdresser/spreader (see pg. 76). The 1.5-cu.-yd. ma-

chine has the Power Brush, a 22-in. diameter poly brush which, along with a directional fin mechanism, propels material from the rear of the machine. Operators can adjust the spreading pattern from 3 to 12 ft. wide, depending on the material.

"I don't think we have another piece of equipment that gets used for as many different jobs," Cornelius says. He top-dresses sand and peat mixtures on sports fields, applies infield mix to baseball fields and spreads cinders on the track.

"For general grounds maintenance, we use it to dispose of grass clippings, leaves and pine needles. Instead of making large piles, we disperse them in fringe areas so they'll decompose faster. We've even used it to spread de-icing materials in the winter," he says.



◀ Spyker's Golf Staff Pro-88

Buying tips

- ▶ Make sure spreader is durable
- ▶ Can it be easily calibrated?
- ▶ Can it spread a variety of materials?
- ▶ Check out spread width

ATI CORPORATION 717/354-8721

The 80-in. wide Model 805 Preseeder tiller from ATI Corporation, New Holland, PA, tills, levels and rakes in one operation. Rotor teeth are mounted in helical pattern. Designed for tractors with 25 to 40 hp PTO.

Circle no. 259



Im reports

CUTLER-MALONE INDUSTRIES **954/741-5888**

CMI, Sunrise, FL, expanded its Broadcaster line of granular spreaders to include four new models: 200, 300, 400 and 500. An air-powered delivery system distributes granular fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides in areas that used to require hand delivery. The 300 fits most utility vehicles and has a 125-lb. hopper. The 200 and 500 models hold 600 lbs. **Circle no. 260**

EARTH & TURF **888/693-2638**

www.earthandturf.com

The MultiSpread 300 is a hydraulically driven topdresser from Earth



& Turf, New Holland, PA. Capacity is 22 cu. ft. Choose brush or beater spreading system for patterns from 26 to 72 in. **Circle no. 261**

FINN CORPORATION **800/543-7166**

www.finncorp.com

Handle mid-range hydroseeding with the Finn T170 HydroSeeder. It has a 1,500-gal. capacity. Slurry is mixed thoroughly because of tank profile, larger agitator and variable speed reversible hydraulic agitator drive. **Circle no. 262**



GANDY COMPANY **800/443-2476**

www.gandy.net

Owatonna, MN-based Gandy Company offers precision lawn spreaders with snap-on/snap-off stainless steel bottom and sides in 24-, 36- and 42-in. sizes. Rate adjustment to apply seed, fertilizers or chemicals is by a cam gauge mounted on the side. All models are available in tractor hitch models with pneumatic or semi-pneumatic tires. **Circle no. 263**

GROUNDTEK **407/877-7473**

groundtek@aol.com

The EBS 100/200 spreader line from Groundtek, Ocoee, FL, mounts on the front or back of commercial mowers, utility vehicles or trailers. The 200 features 200-lb. fertilizer capacity. Both units are fully adjustable to control spread pattern width. **Circle no. 264**

HERD SEEDER **219/753-6311**

www.herdseeder.com

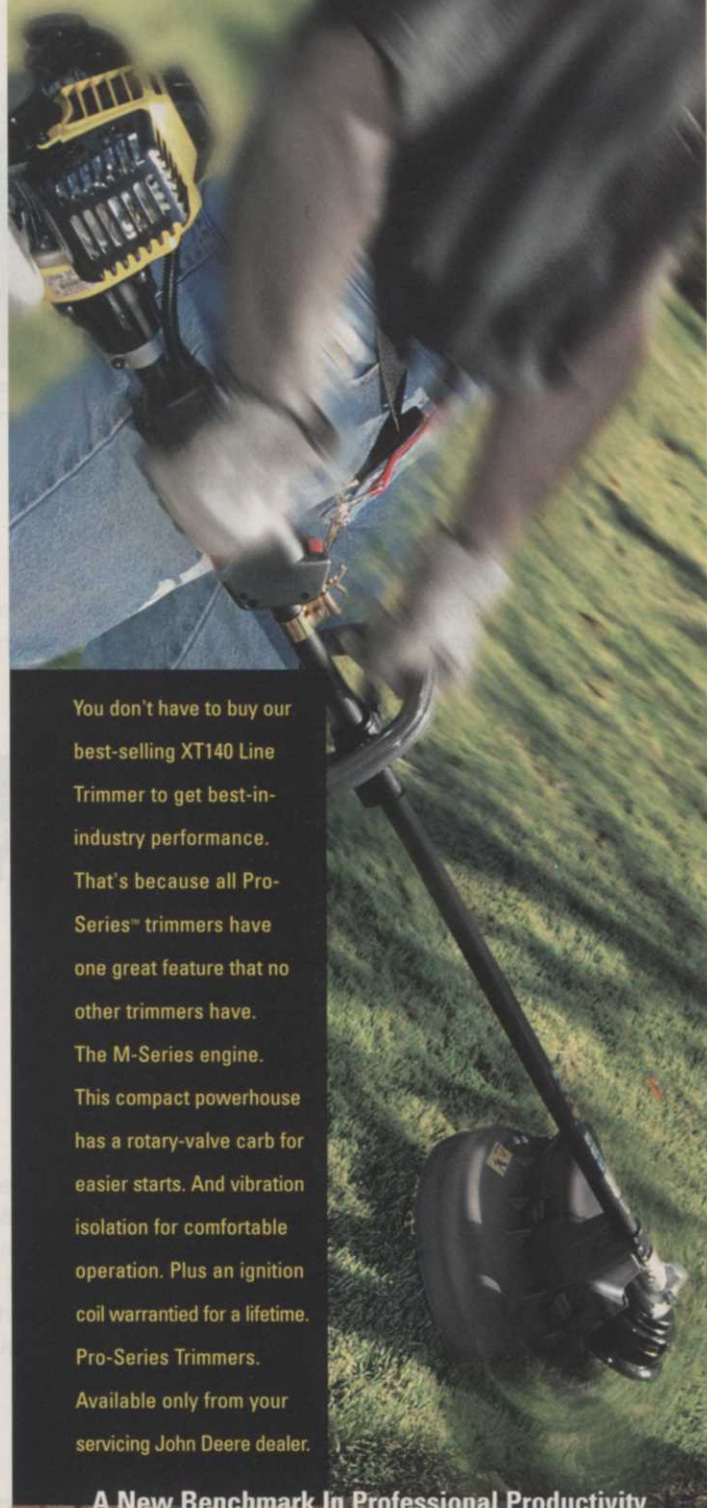
The Model 750 seeder/spreader from Herd, Logansport, IN has a 750-lb. capacity hopper for fertilizer or 10 bushels for seed. Built to



mount onto tractors with a Category I 3-pt. hitch, it's powered by the tractor PTO. It spreads fertilizer up to 36 ft. wide. **Circle no. 265**

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Circle 137

JOHN DEERE
919/850-0123

www.deere.com

Tow-behind unit from John Deere Commercial, Research Triangle Park, NC, is a combination aerator and spreader. Spreader has a capacity of 100 lbs., letting you do two jobs at once: perforate soil with the aerator and drop seed, lime or fertilizer in a 40-in. swath. **Circle no. 266**

JRCO, INC.
800/966-8442

www.jrcoinc.com

Improve productivity by maintaining a constant spread pattern at increased ground speed with the Elec-



tric Broadcaster from JRCO, Minneapolis, MN. Polyethylene hopper has 2.2 cu. ft. (130-lb.) capacity. Mounts quickly with four devis pins. Variable speed drive controls width of spread from 5 to 24 ft. **Circle no. 267**

LAND PRIDE
785/820-8692

www.landpride.com

The Land Pride 48-in. and 72-in. Solid Stand overseeders offer precise placement and seed-to-soil contact. Made in Salina, KS, their straight or curved knives slice into the ground, creating slits to receive the seed. Fluted seed cups meter the desired amount of seed in a broadcast pattern. The solid



cast iron packer wheels finish the job by pressing and firmly packing the seed into the soil. **Circle no. 268**

LESCO
800/321-5325

The 80-lb. capacity spreader from Lesco, Cleveland, OH, has a stainless steel frame and hardware.

Hopper is injection molded polyethylene. Gear set gives superior application performance. On/off helps prevent spills, while rear shelf on hopper helps prevent debris from passing through screen. **Circle no. 269**

MILL CREEK
800/311-1323

The Millcreek topdresser/spreader, made in New Holland, PA, handles compost, not to mention lime and salt. The stiff bristles of its Power Brush break lumps into small particles during the spreading process. Adjust the thickness of the layer spread from 1/4 in. to 2 in. **Circle no. 270**

PROFESSIONAL TREE & TURF
800/237-7785

ptte@worldnet.att.com

Check the list from Dakota Industries' Professional Tree & Turf



Equipment catalog for the latest in spreader technology. The Arvada, CO firm handles both Lesco and Earthway spreaders. Earthway units range in size from the hand-held 3100 to the 100-lb. C2400SS with stainless frame and the C2400P with painted frame.

Circle no. 271

REDEXIM CHARTERHOUSE
570/602-3058

www.redexim.com

The Verti-Seed's unique action provides direct seed contact with the soil which ensures good germination rates, even at speeds up to 6 mph. Redexim Charterhouse, Inc., Pittston

Twp., PA, offers two models — the 804 with a hopper capacity of 3.35 cu. ft. and a working width of 46 in., and the 1204 with a capacity of 5.1 cu. ft. and a seeding width of 62 in. The larger of the two models can seed 12,000 sq. yd/hr.

Circle no. 272

SCOTTS
800/543-0006

www.scottscorporation.com

The new and improved SS-2 stainless steel drop spreader by Scotts, Marysville, OH, has a stainless frame, hopper and fastener. Larger, 13-in. TurfSaver-2 pneumatic wheels give an easier push, and the extended ergonomic handle is more durable than past models. Lift handles in the front and back make for easier loading and unloading on the job. Unit drops a 36-in. swath.

Circle no. 273

SPYKER
888/8SPYKER

www.spyker.com

The new Golf Staff Pro-88 spreader from Spyker, Urbana, IN, comes with a stainless steel frame, solid stainless axle and metal gears. Its optional calibration tray allows for the calibration of seed, fertilizer and chemicals in minutes. **Circle no. 274**

THOMPSON SEEDER
219/753-6366

www.thompsonseeder.com

The Model M3B400R spreader from Thompson Seeder Co., Logansport, IN, can be mounted to tractors, pickup trucks, turf trucks or the Thompson 12-300 flotation trailer. Spread width can be varied from 10 to 30 ft. with the optional rheostat to control the 12-volt DC motor that turns the spinner fan. **Circle no. 275**

TORO
800/476-9673

www.toro.com

The 205 seeder from Toro, Bloomington, MN, is a key part of the Toro Turf Cultivation Equipment line. It seeds 18-in. widths, dropping seed at 2-in. intervals. Delta Reed blades open soil slit. Flap on back of machine covers seed with thin layer of soil, providing better germination. Unit has a 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine and handle-mounted auto safety clutch control. Toro's Topdresser 2500 is a self-contained, all-wheel drive unit towed by a Toro Workman. With a 25-cu. ft. hopper capacity, it features oscillating axles and all wheel drive.

Circle no. 276

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MAG01

ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

Chestnut borer

Some of the oaks on our clients' properties have two-lined chestnut borer problems. How well will Merit insecticide manage the problem? Will Astro do a good job?

— IL

The two-lined chestnut borer is a flat-headed borer similar to bronze birch borer. In theory, Merit should help manage the problem if it's used according to label guidelines. Reports indicate that Merit provided variable results when used for bronze birch borer management.

Your other choice is to use insecticides such as Dursban or Astro. As you may know, Dursban will be discontinued for industry use in the near future. Therefore, become familiar with alternative products for dealing with these destructive pests.

Borers establish on stressed and weakened plants. Stress may be caused by defoliating insects and/or early foliage diseases like anthracnose. Improve plant health through proper watering, mulching and fertilization. Read and follow label specifications for best results.

Barking up the wrong tree?

I have two large post oak trees that stand side by side and are losing bark from the base of the trunk upward, and outer branches as well. Also, they have a dark brown powder on the trunks. What can I do to stop this?

—TX

The dark brown powder you have described is most likely related to borer insect activity. Re-examine the bark and trunks for the presence of borer insect larvae and/or larval feeding galleries. In general, borers establish on weakened trees. Study the plant on-site to determine why the tree is declining.

The primary problem could be related to abiotic stress such as drought or biotic problems like wilt or canker disease. The bark loosening or peeling all over the plant indicates that the tree is dead or dying. Consider the possibility of oak wilt and/or shoestring root rot caused by *Armillaria* sp.

If there are any other valuable trees in the area, examine them for possible borer, insect, canker, wilt or root rot problems. Tap the bark on the trunks to determine if it's loose. If so, bark trace and remove. If there is evidence of borer activity, treat with insecticides such as Dursban or Astro.

If there is evidence of oak wilt or other canker diseases, provide proper treatment. In general, there is no fungicide treatment for cankers. For treatment of oak wilt disease, Alamo fungicide trunk injection treatments work well.

Read and follow label specifications for best results.



Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: "Ask the Expert" Landscape Management; 7500 Old Oak Blvd.; Cleveland, OH 44130, or email: sgibson@advanstar.com. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.

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Echo Inc.'s Power Pruners feature 25.4-cc Echo engines and telescoping shafts and optional extensions allowing operators to trim branches up to 22 ft. high. A new Oregon Intenz side-access chain tensioning bar ensures proper bar positioning.



For more information

contact Echo at 800/673-1558 or www.echo-usa.com / circle no. 250

How stimulating

Bio-Plex technical concentrate and plant enhancer is a biostimulant liquid complex of seaweed extract, humic acid extract, enzymes and a non-ionic wetting agent. When applied to turf and ornamental plants, the company says, it reduces transplant stress, increases fibrous root mass and photosynthetic capacity and antioxidants, and speeds up plant establishment.

For more information contact Bio-Plex at 800/441-3573 / circle no. 251

Quick fix

NIBCO's Slip-Fix in-line repair coupling for broken water lines offers tight, permanent sealing since it has no threaded connections to



work loose and a deep socket female end. It also has a built-in recess that keeps the O-ring lubricated to hold pressure. Its telescoping design eliminates digging out long sections of pipe to mend a break.

For more information contact NIBCO at 888/446-4226 or www.nibco.com / circle no. 252



Spray head for less

Rain Bird's UNI-Spray was designed with affordability in mind. It's available in 2-, 4- and 6-in. pop-up heights, and its slim profile makes it virtually invisible. The pressure-activated, multi-function wiper seal limits the flow-by during pop-up to allow more heads to be installed on a valve. It's also available with 10-, 12-, 15- or 18-ft. factory installed variable arc nozzles adjustable from 0 to 360 degrees for watering standard or irregularly-shaped turf areas.

For more information contact Rain Bird at 800/247-3782 or www.rainbird.com / circle no. 253

Keep plants cozy

Reemay, Inc.'s lawn and garden blankets are made of lightweight, spunbonded polyester that floats over plants and, the company says, retains warmth and moisture to protect plants during cold spells and to help boost germination and growth when temperatures begin to rise. The blankets are 12 ft. by 15 ft.

For more information contact Reemay at 800/321-6271 or www.reemay.com / circle no. 254

Net a problem

Tipper Tie-Net has a biodegradable netting perfect for turf reinforcement. Made from natural cotton yarns, it ranges in size from 22- to 96-in. wide. Life expectancy ranges from between 60 and 180 days or longer, depending on whether or not a natural wax is introduced to the yarn.

For more information contact Tipper Tie-Net at 800/736-0990 / circle no. 255

Water control

Hunter Industries' Pro-C mid-sized controller for residential and light commercial applications handles up to 12 stations. It's sold as a 3-station base unit that can be expanded with snap-in zone modules. It also has a removable face pack so contractors can perform programming functions from many locations.

For more information contact Hunter at 800/733-2823 or www.hunterindustries.com / circle no. 256

Get in control

Caterpillar Inc.'s new 420D and 430D backhoe loaders feature standard pilot



operated joystick controls. The 420D has 85 net hp and backhoe digging depth of 14 ft., 5 in. The 430D has 94 net hp and digging depth of 15 ft., 3 in. An extendable stick increases digging depths of 420D and 430D to 18 ft., 1 in. and 19 ft., 11 in., respectively. Both machines can handle applications involving pallet forks, material handling arms, brooms and buckets.

For more information contact Caterpillar at P.O. Box 10097, Peoria, IL 61612-0097 or www.cat.com / circle no. 257

Plant power

Growth Products' new micronutrient blend Big Fore (4-0-0) contains 4% of each of the following elements: nitrogen, sulfur, iron and manganese. According to Growth Products, it can be safely tank mixed and sprayed with herbicides and insecticides. Big Fore is ideal for both foliar and soil applications to correct compound deficiencies and chlorosis.

For more information contact Growth Products at 800/648-7626 / circle no. 258