

TO OUR READERS

Congratulations — this is the season when the fruits of your labor are most evident. It's a delight to drive home in the evenings now, past the peopled golf courses and busy athletic fields with spring practice in full swing.

Entering my subdivision, which is built in a valley, I see even more Green Industry labors — beautiful flowering dogwoods, birch and red maple, lush evergreens, nearly perfect lawns and tree lawns.

Each evening I notice trucks from new lawn care companies as well as established landscape contractors and tree care companies. And to think, each year it will get more beautiful as the six-year-old development takes on more character and the feeling of establishment.

In Cobbs County, Georgia, a multi-family complex took on this character immediately, thanks, in large measure, to the determination and talent of a young landscape contractor, but see for yourself on page 14. The contractor, Jim Gibbs, told me a story about work attitude, and, although it is about another industry, I pass it along as the concept is applicable to all of us.

One late spring afternoon, two railroad track gang workers were lining up cross-ties when a train pulled up and an imposing man in a pinstripe suit got off.

"Hi, Bill", said the man to the older worker. "How are Joan and the children?"

The conversation went on a few minutes longer, then the man got back on the train and it pulled away.

The younger worker, who had stood in silence during the conversation, said, "Bill, do you know who that was?"

"Sure," said Bill. "That's the president of the railroad."

"How do you know him?" the younger worker asked in amazement.

"Why," said Bill, "thirty years ago we worked on a track gang together."

After a long silence, the younger worker said, "Bill, I don't mean to hurt your feelings, but have you ever wondered why, after 30 years, he's the company president and you're still on the track gang?"

"Sure," said Bill. "I've thought about it a lot. Thirty years ago I was working for 35 cents an hour. Today I work for \$3.75 an hour. Thirty years ago he was working for the railroad."

This month we take a long, hard look at Fusarium blight, see page 22. Dr. Richard W. Smiley of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell, prepared the article. He recommends you take a multi-pronged approach to the disease. It's well worth reading.

At the University of Maryland, Dr. Douglas Hawes is working with sand as a topdressing for turfgrass, see page 30. Dr. Hawes' four management tools are sand versus none and summer versus winter fertilization. This low-cost application shows promise for some turfgrass combinations.

Gail D. Hogan

Our American Economic System is good bad. (check one)

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