

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

LANDSCAPE

Contractors gather for Orlando meeting

The 1978 Annual Meeting of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America attracted a total of 653 landscape contractors from across the U.S. and from England, Canada and Scotland. The five day program was held January 29 through February 3 in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Alex Mackenzie conducted the keynote session on time management. His opening remarks led to the decision that time management is a misnomer, that time cannot be changed, but rather it is a matter of self management to make the most of the time that is available.

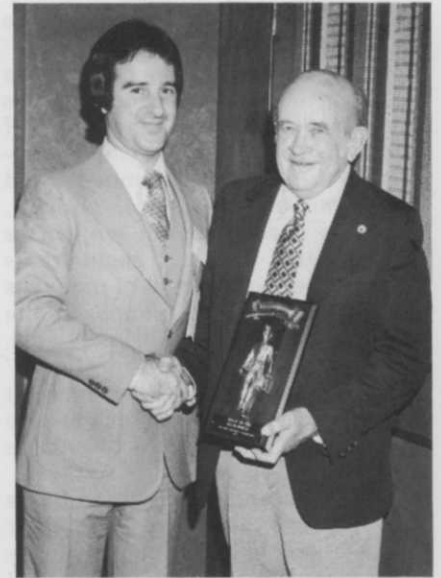
E. Gray Payne discussed accounting, a key element to any business, on Tuesday morning. Tuesday afternoon, the exhibit hall opened. Many favorable comments were heard from exhibitors on the fact that the exhibit hall was open only one afternoon, and that it was well attended by the ALCA members. Exhibitors complain because,

often they spend three or four days at a show and everyone has seen it by the second day, with the third or fourth being sparsely attended.

The membership meeting was held Wednesday, with new officers being elected. The 1978 ALCA program was presented at that time.

The environmental Improvement awards were presented Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Rosalynn Carter sent a telegram to Jim Gibbs congratulating ALCA for encouraging awareness of the importance of individual and community efforts to protect and enhance our environment.

The meeting split into concurrent specialty sessions on Thursday. Sessions on maintenance, interiorscaping, and erosion control gave members an opportunity to determine innovations in their special interest. The sessions continued Friday morning, concluding a well attended ALCA meeting.



Mr. Nelson Monical was recognized by the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation as "Man of the Year" for 1977 for his many years of service to the turfgrass industry in Ohio. OTF president Lou Greco (left) made the presentation.

TURF

National federation is born in Texas

With cautious optimism a group of industry leaders endorsed the creation of a national turfgrass "federation" during the International Turfgrass Conference sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in San Antonio, Tx., Feb. 12-17.

A temporary slate of officers and a committee to write a set of bylaws were chosen during the breakfast meeting.

The original idea of a national turfgrass federation is attributed to Dr. Fred Grau who made the motion for creation and consequently put

his idea of 1953 into action in 1978. Richard Morey, publisher of Brantwood Publications, and Dr. Richard Duble, a Texas A&M researcher, are credited for making this latest and presently successful push for a national body to represent turf interests.

The desire is to make the organization resemble the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology, (CAST), a relatively successful and non-competitive organization representing agriculture. Without actually lobbying, CAST gathers data and polls in-

dustry leaders regarding topics of critical interest to agriculture. As a result, government officials consult CAST before making decisions on agricultural issues.

Dr. James Beard, well-known author and Texas A&M professor, cautioned the organizers of the federation against taking any kind of competitive stance with other industry associations. Beard recommended the name of council rather than federation for this purpose. "The group needs to have a total industry scope and must not threaten the vested interests of other groups," Beard said.

James Watson of Toro seconded Dr. Grau's motion for creation and was named to the bylaw committee along with Grau, Beard, and Tom Mascaro. The committee will determine how the federation will be funded.

The officers chosen are Lou Greco-president; Gene Nutter-vice president; and Richard Duble-secretary-treasurer.

LANDSCAPE

Firms predict jump in business

Landscape firms are predicting an average 15% or more increase in business across the country this year, according to a survey conducted by the National Landscape Association. Ninety-percent of those responding indicated that they expect increased landscape sales during 1978.

Projections made by NLA members indicated that the strongest sales will be in new residential and commercial landscaping. Residential renovation followed close behind. Only half of the respondents expected increases in commercial renovations.

Three-quarters of the landscape firms indicated bookings in new residential and commercial landscaping. Two-thirds indicated increased bookings for residential renovation landscaping.

The same survey a year ago showed an expected 12% increase in 1977 business over 1976.

IRRIGATION

Toro announces low-cost system

The Irrigation Division of the Toro Company unveiled a method of converting a manual irrigation system to automatic without wires or control tubes during the 1978 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Turfgrass Conference and Show in San Antonio in February.

The new system was developed by Karl Fry especially for low-income golf courses with quick-coupler sprinklers, but is expected to have application for other large turf areas. The system, called MPC for modulating pressure control, requires modification of the pump house, and that expense will depend upon the present condition of any pumphouse. Pressure regulating valves and a pressure tank are necessary. Once the pumphouse is adequate and the central controller installed, conversion is simply a matter of replacing heads by removal of the quick coupler and replacement with any one of Toro's valve-in-head gear-driven rotary sprinklers and

the installation of a cyclor at each head.

The controller is a 39-station solid-state electronic one. No electric wiring, however, or control tubing is necessary between the central controller and the sprinklers heads and there are no satellite controllers.

The cyclor is the heart of the system. It reacts to pressure changes in the main line to turn the sprinklers on and off. The central controller intercepts the water flow between the pumphouse and each cylinder to determine the starting time and duration of watering for each sprinkler. The cyclor contains gears and levers that respond to hydraulic pressure. It has four hydraulic connections, one each that: "reads" the pressure in the piping system, supplies water to the valve through the cyclor, and to the valve, and drains the water to open the valve.

A demonstration system was installed at Windcrest golf course in San Antonio, Texas. The pumphouse was completely remodified at a cost of approximately \$8,000. Heads were then converted and cyclors installed by the course's maintenance personnel at a rate of 20 per day, with a 200 head conversion complete in 10 days.

The demonstration itself at Windcrest ran very smoothly. It is estimated that there are more than 4,000 low-budget golf courses with quick-coupler manual systems that should be able to afford an MPC system, according to John Skidgel, Toro's golf course/government marketing manager. Full production of the system is expected in early 1979.

TURF

Michigan firm publishes bibliography

A bibliography of turfgrass literature during 1672 - 1973 has been compiled and edited by James Beard, Harriett Beard, and David Martin. The TURFGRASS BIBLIOGRAPHY contains more than 16,000 references listed alphabetically on an author basis. These references are then cross listed in a subject index which contains more than 40,000 entries. Scientific, semi-technical, and popular writings covering all phases of turfgrass

science, culture, and management are included.

The Michigan State University Press, a nonprofit organization, has published 1,500 copies. Financial assistance in publishing the book was given by the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, United States Golf Association Green Section Research and Education Fund, The Michigan Golf Association, and The Michigan Seniors Golf Association.

The reference will sell for \$35.00. Orders may be sent to Michigan State University Press, Harrison Road, East Lansing, Mich., 48824. Orders will be filled starting June 4.

DISEASE

Extension loss figures top \$90 million

The U.S. Cooperative Extension Service has reported an estimated annual loss in the U.S. of \$4,670,000,000 as a result of crop, tree, and other plant diseases.

The Agriculture Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that pests, including weeds, cause approximately 30% annual loss in potential production of food and fiber. About 50,000 species of fungi cause over 1,500 crop and animal diseases; over 1,500 nematodes damage crop plants; and more than 10,000 insect species cause serious crop and livestock losses.

NURSERY

Biological waste process developed

Workers at the Biological Waste Management and Soil Nitrogen Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., have developed a method of converting raw or digested, dewatered sewage sludge into compost ready for use in potting mixes and nursery soil in 60 days. The compost has an odor similar to that of normal garden compost. It has a pH of 6.5-7.0 and contains 0.9-1.6% nitrogen, 1.0-1.2% calcium, 1.0-1.2% magnesium, and an abundant supply of trace elements.

Research work has shown that, regardless of the amount of composted sludge blended, pH and phosphorus levels are above optimum. Further study is needed to determine if supplemental potassium will be beneficial.

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

President wants EPA's budget increased

The Carter administration has asked Congress to approve \$60.7 million in fiscal 1979 for the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide programs, a \$13.7 million increase which reflects a change in review priorities by the agency, said Robert Wayland, EPA's lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

"We'll direct more of our resources toward the re-registration program," Wayland said, referring to the program where government investigators will review all chemicals approved by the federal government before 1972. Wayland said this period includes "almost all pesticides (now used); virtually the universe" and estimated that 50,000 chemical products would be affected.

He said that preliminary tests already conducted by the agency show that 150 of the 1,500 active ingredients known to make-up chemical products are suspected to cause serious health or environmental hazards. The agency will conduct further tests on the ingredients, including Toxifine, the most widely used ingredient, to determine the safety of all chemical products.

The investigation will also cover the 4,000 pesticides that leave residue on organisms after application, testing for safe tolerance levels.

Wayland said that many pesticides used now had "very minimal testing" before they were allowed to be sold. He estimated that it costs some companies about \$5 million today to test its potential products to meet federal government standards.

Besides the re-registration program, the Carter administration also hopes its additional funds for pesticide programs will expedite the registration of 8,500 new products.

The administration has also asked that \$9.5 million be given to the Pesticides and Toxic Substances Enforcement Division so that group can expand its state enforcement grant program. The EPA notes that the states will assume many of the enforcement functions now under federal supervision in 1979.

EPA administrator Douglas Costle indicated that the Carter requests will improve the agency's aim to provide a cleaner and safer environment. "Our budget request for 1979 is a dramatic reversal of the last six years' inadequate support for the protection of the environment," he said.

State registration questioned by GAO

A General Accounting Office report has found that some states have misused their pesticide registration authority by registering pesticides which had previously been suspended or canceled by the Environmental Protection Agency, those that required food tolerance levels not yet set by EPA, and others that EPA feels can cause unreasonable environmental effects or just don't perform well.

The report said these violations of FIFRA occurred because some states intentionally misused their authority or that EPA certified states that are incapable of following the law.

The report, requested by Senators Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) members of the Senate subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, concluded that states should not be able to register pesticides not approved by the EPA. It also said violators should be fined or their registration authority suspended.

Although the House of Representatives has voted to allow states to determine pesticides for special local needs, GAO recommends that EPA maintain its review authority and also work to uncover those pesticides used which have not been approved at the federal level.

TURF

Musser Foundation takes funding action

The Musser International Turf-grass Foundation voted to hire a professional estate planner/fund gatherer at its meeting during the GCSAA Conference in San Antonio, Tx.

William Lyons will be in charge of the fund raising effort which is financed by a \$1,000 grant from board member Hugh Chronister representing Harvest Publishing Co.

The Musser Foundation gives financial grants to turf students. One grant to an Ohio student has resulted in a major discovery of the life cycle of the extremely destructive *Ataenius* beetle.

The Foundation, under the direction of Dr. Fred Grau, wants to expand its scholarship work by broadening its financial base through memorial contributions and gifts.

REGULATION

EPA announces restricted list

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has announced its official list of restricted use pesticides — those that can legally be used only by certified applicators.

Of the 23 pesticide ingredients on the restricted-use list, none are used extensively in turf, but some are used in tree and ornamental work. They are:

Aldicarb, marketed by Union Carbide Corp., San Francisco, under the trade name Temik for insect control on ornamentals.

Allyl alcohol, marketed by Don Chemical Co., Midland, Mich. for use on nursery seed beds.

Azinophos methyl, marketed under the trade name Guthion by Chemagro, Kansas City, Mo. for insect control on ornamentals and shade trees.

Demeton, marketed by Chemagro under the trade name Systox for control of aphids and mites on ornamentals.

Methomyl, an insecticide for ornamental use marketed as Lannate by DuPont Co., Wilmington, Del. and

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as Nudrin by Shell Chemical Co., San Ramon, Calif.

Methyl bromide, a fumigant for soil and nursery stock, marketed by Great Lakes Chemical Corp., West Lafayette, Ind., as Bromo-O-Gas and Terr-O-Gas, and by Dow Chemical Co. and others.

Paraquat, a herbicide for non-crop and industrial weed control around shade trees and ornamentals, marketed by Chevron Chemical Co., San Francisco.

Picloram, a herbicide sold for non-crop use in brush control and for utility and other rights-of-way, marketed by Dow Chemical Co. as Tordon.

PESTICIDES

ICI is studying cause of clabber

ICI Americas Inc. has spent two years investigating the cause of clabber in aerial applications of pesticides. Clabber, which tends to be sticky and stream from spray nozzles, rather than spraying as a fine mist with even distribution, occurs in an "invert emulsion".

In a good sprayable emulsion, or an even distribution of water-in-oil, the microscopic droplets of oil are completely surrounded by water. The oil droplets are shielded from touching one another by the water. Because of this, the whole mixture acts just about like water.

In an invert emulsion, the water droplets are coated with oil. The water droplets are prevented from touching one another, and the mixture acts more like an oil.

ICI Americas offers a few simple rules for preventing clabber:

—Store concentrate in a cool, dry place. The lower the temperature, the longer the concentrate will last before it becomes useless for spraying.

—Protect the pesticide containers from exposure to water. If water enters a container use the contents as soon as possible. Check

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suspect materials before using to make sure an invert will not form.

—Handle storage drums carefully to avoid drum lining failure and internal rusting, which speeds up aging of the contents.

Follow proper mixing procedures:

—Put water into the mixing tank first according to the recommended mixture ratio. At least 1/2 to 2/3 of the total amount of water must be in the tank before any other additions.

—Make other additions in the following order:

- tank mix adjuvants
- wettable powders or flowables
- water solubles
- emulsifiable concentrates and remaining
- water to flush lines

If clabber does occur, ICI Americas offers the following recommendations:

—Agitate the mix thoroughly. Watch out for a pesticide concentrate layer forming at the bottom of the tank.

—Use chemical tank mix additives, 2-4 pints per 100 gallons of mixture. Do a small scale test before adding to the main spray tank. Tank mix additives include xylene, kerosene, aviation fuel, and AT-PLUS 555 and ATLOX 8916TF (manufactured by ICI Americas).

—Add more water with agitation.

HORTICULTURE

Penn plant variety becomes cover crop

One of six new plant varieties developed within the Ag Experi-

ment Station of The Pennsylvania State University, Tioga deertongue grass has been released as a conservation cover crop. The grass does not, however, compete well with cool season weeds and grasses and should be used on sites where revegetation is difficult and volunteer growth is sparse.

Tioga deertongue grass is more tolerant than most grasses of aluminum toxicity found on acid spoil banks in coal regions. Some lime and fertilizer are needed for deertongue grass to revegetate very acid, toxic, infertile sites. It is low in forage quality, unsuited for livestock.

Tioga deertongue grass was selected and tested by personnel from the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA and Pennsylvania State University.

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Emerald deserves a second look. Some say it equals, or is better than Penncross in actual use. Here are just a few reasons:

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