

Landscape Contractor News

SBA now guarantees contractor bonds

The Small Business Administration can now guarantee surety bonds for contracts up to \$1-million to any contractor required to have a bid, performance or payment bond. Under the program there is no limit to the number of bonds guaranteed for any one contractor.

In consideration of the Surety Company's paying the Small Business Administration (SBA) 20 percent of the gross bond premium, SBA guarantees the Surety Company up to 90 percent of any loss sustained on contracts up to \$250,000 or greater, subject to a \$500 maximum deductible to the Surety Company regardless of the contract amount.

The contractor must pay a fee of 0.2 percent of the contract amount to SBA, if SBA provides the bond, as well as a maximum 1½ percent premium charge for the bond on the first \$250,000 of the contract amount and one percent on the excess to the Surety Company.

Contact the nearest SBA office for full details.

UC will offer 5-week hort course

A five session horticulture short course, jointly sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension and the five southern chapters of the California Association of Nurserymen, will be given in two locations, starting January 23 and 24.

One location will be at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Brentwood Theater, Brentwood, on Tuesday evenings starting January 23. Wednesday evening sessions will be given at the Diamond Bar Country Club in Diamond Bar, near Pomona, beginning January 24. Courses will be identical in both locations. Session will start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30.

Session one will be "Watering Practices in the Home Landscape", given by William Davis, UC Cooperative Extension at Davis. Second session will cover "Monday Morning Blahs, Cure Them with New Varieties-Flowers and Vegetables", given by James Wilson, Executive Secretary of All America Selections. The third session will deal with "Selling Your Customers", by Ray Cusato, President of Ray Cusato and Associates. Fourth Session will discuss "Native Plants in the Home Landscape", given by Peggy Sears McLaughlin, Cal-Poly. "Diagnosing Home Landscape Problems" will be presented by Paul Rogers, Kellogg Supply, Inc., during the fifth session.

Pre-registration is necessary. Registration fee is \$17. A reference book will be provided and a certificate of completion will be presented to those attending four of the five sessions. The last course attracted over 470 persons in the nursery and landscape industry.

Contact is Ted Stamen, Ornamental Horticulture Farm Advisor for Los Angeles County, phone 3213/744-4885; or Mike Henry, Ornamental Horticulture Farm Advisor for Orange County at 714/744-7050; or Ed McNeill, registration coordinator, phone 213/798-1715.

Land Imprinter controls runoff

The "land imprinter", developed by Dr. Robert M. Dixon, soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service's Tuscon, Arizona research center, may help establish grasses on near-barren dry areas. Based on a new concept for controlling rainwater infiltration, the air-earth interface (AEI) concept, the imprinter is being used experimentally in two coal mine's reclamation programs.

Utah International has planted four one-acre plots at its mine near Fruitland, New Mexico, but hasn't collected data as of yet. Native grasses and shrubs have been planted on heavy clay topsoil, sandy soil and loamy soil, according to John Blueyez, director of experimental reclamation programs.

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EDUCATION

ChemLawn, OSU to hold turf disease symposium

Leading turfgrass disease specialists from the United States and Canada have agreed to participate in a special symposium on turfgrass disease to be held May 15-17 at the University Holiday Inn in Columbus, Ohio.

The symposium is sponsored by Ohio State University, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and ChemLawn Corp., Columbus.

The event is open to all lawn care businessmen and other turf managers from around the country.

For further information write: "A Symposium of Turfgrass Disease 1979," 2865 East Orange Road, Galena, Ohio 43021. Or call Dr. P.O. Larsen at 614-422-6987, or Dr. B.G. Joyner at 614-885-9588.

SCIENTISTS

Beard of Texas A&M named to Musser Board

James B. Beard, professor of Turfgrass Physiology in the Soil and Crop Sciences Department of Texas A&M University, has been named to the Board of the Musser Turf Foundation.

The Musser Foundation is a nonprofit foundation created in honor of Pennsylvania turf professor H. Burton Musser, to support basic research in turfgrass. The work with *Ataenius* has been supported from the beginning by the Foundation.

Fred Grau, Foundation director made the announcement in October. Grau said, "We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Beard on the Musser board and feel his contribution will be very significant to the advancement of basic turf research."

SEED

Coated grass seed available in spring

Oseco, Inc., Brampton, Ontario, has announced that it will introduce a coated grass seed beginning next spring.

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The contractor must prove to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Labor the existence of a liability insurance policy for damages to persons or property arising from the contractor's operation of vehicles for the transportation of migrant agricultural workers. If the contractor is going to drive the vehicle, he must submit a doctor's certificate and a set of his fingerprints.

Every full-time or regular employee of a Farm Labor Contractor must obtain and carry a Farm Labor Contractor Identification Card issued by the Secretary of Labor if the employee engages in any of the activities covered by the Act.

The law prohibits any person from hiring a farm labor contractor to supply farm laborers until he determines that the contractor possesses a current certificate.

Penalties for violations of the Act include fines up to \$500 and one year in prison. Subsequent violations are subject to a fine not to exceed \$10,000 and up to three years in prison. The Secretary of Labor may assess a fine of not more than \$1000 for each violation of the act.

Copies of the act may be requested from the local Employment Office or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

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collected data as of yet. Native grasses and shrubs have been planted on heavy clay topsoil, sandy soil and loamy soil, according to John Blueyez, director of experimental reclamation programs.

The land imprinter consists of two steel cylinders, each 40 inches long and 40 inches in diameter, with 6-inch angle irons welded to the surface. The imprint cylinders are available in a number of geometric patterns.

One cylinder forms a seedbed for grasses while the other forms trenches for water runoff, directed into the seedbeds. Depth of the trenches can be varied by filling the cylinders with water or other fluids.

The AEI concept indicates that water infiltration is controlled by the microroughness and macroporosity of the soil surface through a complex interaction of many physical, biological, pneumatic, and hydraulic processes. Hand treatments on soil surfaces have been successful and are similar to those produced by the land imprinter. The imprinter is expected to produce an infiltration range similar to the hand-imposed treatments used in validating the AEI concept.

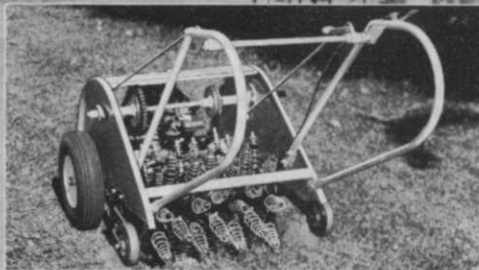
The imprinter, which requires a tractor 30-hp or more, can roll over brush up to 3-inches in diameter, and can effectively crush and chop the vegetative material, creating a mulching effect. This also serves to kill the vegetation, conserving water for grass establishment.

For more information, contact Dr. Robert M. Dixon, Soil Scientist, Southwest Rangeland Watershed Research Center, 442 E. 7th St., Tucson, AZ, 85705.

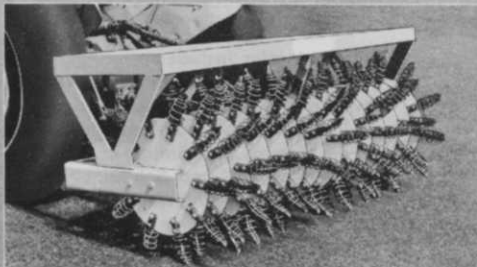
Hahn Turf Maintenance



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TM-140
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Vertifiers and Aerifiers

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Fast, straight-in, straight-out coring. Core catcher. High speed. Minimum surface disturbance. Hydraulic lift for easy maneuvering.

JR-3 Aerifier®

Self-propelled aerifier for greens and general purpose. Fast, maneuverable, low maintenance. Scoops out small, pear-shaped, loose-walled cavities to admit air, water, and fertilizer to grass roots.

TM-140 Aerifier®

Easiest, fastest, most maintenance free aerifier. Built-in weight racks. Rigid frame construction. Aerifying spoons or double-point diamond slicing blades available for double duty. Patented Flexi-press springs fit over spoons to prevent turf tearing. Models for 3-point hitch or pull-behind, hydraulic lift.

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