

Spec guide, maintenance report published

The second edition of the *ALCA Guide to Specifications for Interior Landscaping* has been released by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). The new 57-page manual represents a major expansion of the material contained in the original document. The manual contains four sections: an expanded introduction with a full explanation of the interior landscaping industry; a complete set of recommended bid preparation instructions; a complete recommended standard form of agreement; and a complete set of specifications of interior plants, including installation requirements and photographs.

The *ALCA Landscape Maintenance Report* is a 62-page report based in part on the proceedings of the Association's Maintenance Symposium held this past December in San Jose, Calif. It contains six papers originally presented at the meeting, including: "Tricks of the Maintenance Trade" by Herman Carruth; "Management Planning and Organization Development" by Rod Bailey; "Choosing the Right Herbicide for the Job" by David Hanson; "Marketing and Promoting Maintenance Services" by Roger Harris; "Cost Control and Financial Management" by E. Gray Payne; and "Problems to Avoid" by Douglas Hamilton.

Copies of either are available at \$12.00 each (\$5.00 to ALCA members) from: ALCA Publications, 1750 Old Meadow Rd., McLean, VA 22102.

Reward offered for theft information

The California Landscape & Irrigation Council, Inc., is offering a thousand dollar reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who steal, burglarize, or vandalize equipment and supplies belonging to contractors who are signatory to the Council's labor agreements.

The reward is jointly underwritten by CLIC and the Irrigation & Lawn Sprinkler Fitters Union, Local 345, and went into effect on Feb. 1. Large two-color posters and water-proof decals are being printed, and will be distributed to all landscape and irrigation contractors throughout Southern California who are signatory to the Council's labor agreements. Contractors will be encouraged to post the signs on their job sites and at their places of business, and to affix the decals on tools, equipment, and other items of value.

"Persons who become aware of theft, burglary, or vandalism should notify the company concerned, the local police, or the CLIC office," says Ahlers. "Once a suspect is apprehended, arrested, and convicted, the reward will be paid in full to the informant with monies placed in a special fund for this purpose."

Container trees used in reclamation

Tree seedlings grown in small containers in a greenhouse can be used to revegetate land strip-mined for coal, according to Russell J. Hutnik and Edgar H. Palpant of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Pennsylvania State University.

One of the major advantages of this system, they claim, is that the container keeps the root system intact and protected in a fertile growing medium. In contrast, conventional nursery-grown tree seedlings are planted in a bare root condition and are subject to injury during processing for shipment.

For many years relatively large container-grown seedling trees were used in the high plains country of the West, to establish windbreaks where moisture was limited. These container-grown seedlings proved to be more vigorous than bare-root nursery stock and survival improved greatly.

According to recent studies at Penn State, however, the container-

Continues on page 94

erals such as goethite and hematite are widespread and abundant in many of our warm climate soils.

Iron oxides have a strong capacity to absorb anionic (negatively charged ions) plant nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen, sulfur, molybdenum, and boron. Such oxides also improve soil structure by binding clay particles into aggregates.

Seedbed quality, erodibility, and water infiltration are examples of soil properties likely to be influenced by this effect. Station scientists, studying the effects of iron oxide-clay bonding on soil properties, find there is an intimate physical association between silicate clays and iron oxides.

The ability of the mixture to buffer changes in soil acidity, often associated with high nitrogen fertilization, is influenced by reaction of iron compounds with surfaces of other soil particles. Future experiments on soil properties involving the reactivity of iron oxides will be designed to prevent essential soil management practices, such as liming or heavy fertilization, from damaging soil quality.

SEED

New bluegrass variety introduced by NAPB

North American Plant Breeders (NAPB) have introduced Enmundi Kentucky bluegrass, which it claims is the most disease resistant variety on the market. The variety is said to show good winter color, and with respect to adaptation, NAPB says Enmundi's cold hardiness extends its range throughout the American north, well into Canada. In the transition zone, southward, it has exhibited excellent heat and drought tolerance.

In Missouri turf trials, Enmundi performed within the top third at Columbia and in the state's southeast and southwest trials. The variety has done well in tests conducted by the University of California at a location half way between Los Angeles and San Diego. There, Enmundi's performance has ranked fourth or fifth among some 30 commercially-available bluegrass varieties tested during 1976 to 1978.

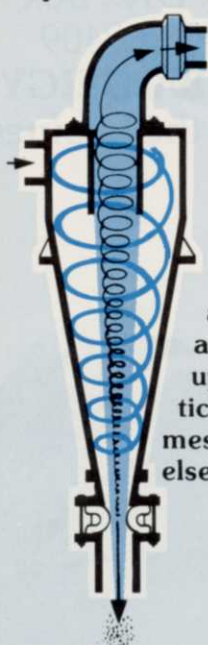
Enmundi showed the best resistance to Fusarium blight out of 89 Kentucky bluegrass varieties and blends evaluated in 1978 at Rutgers University in New Jersey, says NAPB. It suffered only 0.2% damage, while Fusarium levels of 15-25%

Continues on page 96

Proven over 15 years

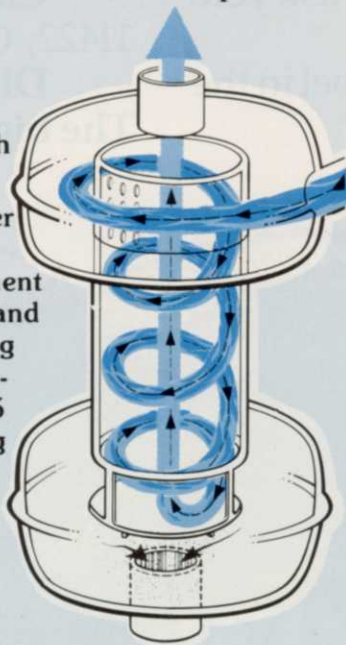
A better way to remove sand from water.

The old hydrocyclone (left) did a good job. But our separator (at right) is better. No high speed abrasion. No plugging the apex. No screens or filter elements to clean or replace.



No downtime or routine maintenance. No continuous loss of water and no high pressure losses.

It's simply a better way to protect irrigation equipment and pumps from sand and grit by removing up to 98% of all particles as small as 325 mesh. There's nothing else quite like it.



deserves a new name all its own.

It just seemed the easiest way to make sure you won't confuse us with anyone else. So now it's Lakos Separators instead of Laval Separators. Same people . . . same dependable equipment . . . new name. Through four generations, 39 patents and spanning over 100 years, the Laval family name is still one you can trust . . . now in sand separation with Lakos Separators. Free literature and the name of your nearest distributor are yours for the asking.



**Claude Laval
Corporation**

1911 N. Helm • Dept. • Fresno, Ca. 93727 • (209) 255-1601

grown seedlings are not always superior. In fact, survival and subsequent growth have sometimes been less than with standard nursery-grown seedlings.

At the same time, the basic problem is one of cost, Dr. Hutnik observed. To compete with nursery-grown seedlings, containerized seedlings must be grown for no longer than one year prior to transplanting, in contrast to the two to four years normally needed to produce certain conifers in nurseries. The older seedlings, it was noted, are better able to withstand competition from other vegetation and tolerate late frosts and droughts that often occur following spring planting.

"If the springtime has sufficient, well-distributed rainfall and no severe late frosts, and if weed and grass cover is not too dense, containerized seedlings survive as well or better than bare-root stock," Dr. Hutnik affirmed.

"This apparently explains the good results we had with our container-grown seedlings in 1978, as compared to relatively poor results in 1977," he added.

The container-grown method has several attractive features, it was pointed out. It conserves seed that is expensive or in short supply, such as seed from genetically superior trees. It improves flexibility in planning and in responding to unexpected developments, since the time from sowing of seeds to outplanting is shortened by a year or more. And it permits the planting season to be extended later than normal into the growing season, since the roots in containers are disturbed only slightly.

"For these reasons, more and more containerized seedlings are likely to be planted as part of reclamation programs on newly mined land as well as to rehabilitate old strip mines lacking adequate vegetation," Dr. Hutnik predicted. He indicated, however, that bare-root nursery stock will continue to be the chief means of reforesting strip-mined land, at least in the near future.

Meanwhile, research is underway at Penn State to develop and evaluate new or improved containers and methods of handling them. Experiments are seeking improved greenhouse environmental systems. The latter stress interaction of various types and combinations of irrigation, fertilization, supplemental night lighting, and supplemental cooling and heating.