

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

California contractors crack down on theft

Landscape contractors in California are fed up with job site burglary by thieves, "who know what they are doing." To stop the costly problem the California Landscape and Irrigation Council is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing, vandalizing, or willfully misappropriating property belonging to members.

Trenchers, tractors, irrigation controllers, automatic valves, and plants are disappearing from job sites at an alarming rate. The Los Angeles area is the hardest hit so far, with one contractor losing more than \$50,000 in equipment this year.

CLIC Executive Secretary Joe Brazen set the value of stolen equipment and plants at more than \$3 million per year. "Our goal is to deter theft," said Brazen. "We've printed posters and decals and members display them all over job sites. Since we've started posting the warnings the incidence of theft has dropped substantially."

Contractors suspect there is a ring operating which steals and resells to unethical contractors, or uses them as an unlicensed contractor. The thieves take items only someone familiar with contracting would know as valuable.

"They know what they want when they break in," John O'Rorke of Pacific Irrigation Supply states. "We can't even replace stolen supplies fast enough to stay on the contractor's schedule."

In a recent front page news story, *The Los Angeles Times* said the losses to landscape contractors are just a portion of the \$62 million lost to theft and vandalism at construction sites in California each year. Ben Bartolotto, a member of the California Construction Industry Research Board, said 30 percent of construction sites suffer theft losses.

The "ring" also knows enough to break into warehouses for valves and couplings after taking controllers from job sites.

"The thieves have technical knowledge. They don't use wire cutters, but unscrew valves," said O'Rorke. "They even tape off wire connections and leave the support base with the wire tied off neatly, as if to make it easier to replace."

Insurance fraud is also suspected. Some ethical contractors are being dropped by insurance companies after losses. Others suspect former employees or smaller contractors who got too far in debt. However, no one has been apprehended to date.

Dealing in hot merchandise can backfire, police warn. A fence will sell you hot goods one day, and come later to rob them back, knowing you will not report the burglary.

A non-profit crime prevention group in Sacramento estimates that an average of \$1,000 per \$50,000 of a home's purchase price pays for losses to theft and vandalism. It all adds up to millions and CLIC has decided it's time to act.

TREES

Jamboree set for Midwest arborists

A tree trimmer's jamboree featuring competitive events, prize money, and exhibitions will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Ill., June 16. The jamboree is being co-sponsored by the Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Morton Arboretum.

Competitive events include a work climb, rope throwline contest, log drop, and chain saw event. Those participating in all four events must pay a \$25 entrance fee. A \$10 fee will be charged to those participating only in the chain saw contest. Two \$500 prizes will be awarded, along with a \$150 prize, chain saw, trophy, and medals.

An exhibition of a tree trimmer's equipment will also be featured at the jamboree. Both the jamboree and

**\$1,000.00
Reward!**

for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons who steal, burglarize, vandalize, or willfully misappropriate for their own use any property belonging to:

Name of Company _____

Telephone Number _____

This reward is offered jointly by the California Landscape & Irrigation Council, Inc. and the Irrigation & Lawn Sprinkler Entrepreneurs Local 145 United Association, and is effective immediately.

The reward covers all property of the company named above, both on the job site and at the location where the business is maintained and includes all tools, equipment, vehicles, irrigation supplies, plant materials, construction materials, and all other items of value.

All incidents of theft, burglary, vandalism or willful misappropriation of this company's property should be reported immediately (day or night) to the company named, the local police department, or to the Calif. Landscape & Irrigation Council, 1-213-941-6900.

\$1,000.00 Reward Fully Guaranteed By:

California Landscape & Irrigation Council, Inc. Irrigation & Lawn Sprinkler
 Council, Inc. Entrepreneurs, 145
 1400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite B-2 1100 An Way, Suite 222
 Whittier, Calif. 90607 Glendale, Calif. 91201
 1-213-941-6900 1-213-241-2000

exhibition are free and open to the public.

To help individuals determine plant values a tree and shrub appraisal seminar will be conducted at the arboretum June 15-16.

Dr. L.L.C. Chadwick, emeritus professor of horticulture at Ohio State University and Dr. James Kielbaso, professor of forestry at Michigan State University, will jointly conduct the seminar.

Only 75 persons will be selected to attend the seminar on a first-come-first-served basis. The registration fee is \$50 which includes a noon luncheon on June 16. The fee should be sent to Dr. George Ware, the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill. 60532.

Arborists elect Holkenborg president

The membership of the National Arborist Association, Inc., has elected Larry Holkenborg, owner of Holkenborg Nursery in Sandusky, OH, as president for 1979.

Holkenborg said he intends to

focus on "employee development". Responding to a shortage of trained personnel, the Association will encourage development of two- and four-year college programs in tree care and orient more high school student to careers in arboriculture.

Other elections which took place at the Association's recent meeting in Newport Beach, CA, are:

First Vice President Bruce M. Walgren, Walgren Tree Experts, West Hartford, CN.

Second Vice President Walter Money, Guardian Tree Experts, Inc., Rockville, MD.

Secretary Erik Haupt, Haupt Tree Co., Sheffield, MASS.

Treasurer Lee Lesh, Lee's Tree Surgeons, Saratoga, CA.

Board members elected were Robert Mullane, Alpine Tree Care, White Plains, NY; George Tyler, Consolidated Utility Equipment Co., Amherst, NH; Neil Engledow, Mid-Western Tree Experts, Indianapolis, IN; and Robert Bartlett Jr., F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., Stamford, CN. Ken Kirk, Shield Shade Tree Specialists, Clayton, MO is past president.

SOUTHERN TURF

Centipede shade tolerance matches St. Augustine

Preliminary research by Dr. Earl Barrios, Jr., at the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station in Baton Rouge indicates that Centipede grass is as shade tolerant as St. Augustine grass.

In the three-year study centipede grew better in dense shade than Floratam and St. Augustine and as well as zoysia. St. Augustine has been damaged by a virus, St. Augustine decline (SAD) in much of the state. Barrios also noted that the centipede was not affected as greatly by chinchbugs, but is prone to Brown Patch disease like St. Augustine. The centipede did withstand low temperatures better than the St. Augustine.

EQUIPMENT

Jacobsen sells assets of Sod Master to Turfco

Turfco Manufacturing Inc., Minneapolis, MN, has purchased the assets of the Sod Master division of Jacobsen Manufacturing Co., ac-

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Students compete at ALCA Field Day

More than 250 students from seven colleges faced off at Texas Tech University in March in a series of competitive events. Surveying, plant identification, landscape design, cut and fill estimating, back hoe operation, sales, business problem solving, trenching, tree climbing, and cross-cut sawing were the events. Students from Texas Tech, Mississippi State, Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Technical Institute, Richland College, and Oklahoma Tech were the contestants.

Texas Tech, with a home court advantage, grabbed the lead, Mississippi State claimed second, and Ohio State and Oklahoma State tied for third.

Texas Tech advisor Ron Smith said the great participation indicated increased interest in programs which teach the new generation of landscapers.

Landscape business growth expected

According to a survey taken by the National Landscape Association, managers of landscape businesses expect 1979 growth to match last year's growth with the exception of commercial renovation work.

Based upon survey data, landscape business should increase between 15 and 20 percent nationally in 1979. On a regional basis, the Pacific Coast landscapers expect nearly 30 percent more business this year. On the low end, landscapers in the western plains expect only an 11 percent gain. Managers in the Southwest predicted a 20 percent gain. Great Lakes, Northeast, and Southeast managers all anticipate a 15 percent rise.

NLA qualified the response by saying that the survey is characteristically conservative and said 1978 estimates were lower than the actual results by five percent.

The commercial renovation market seems depressed however, especially in the Southwest. The Great Lakes region expects less growth in new commercial as well. Residential work seems to remain strong for both new and renovation work, with only a slight overall drop. Commercial work must reflect economic problems more than residential.

Disaster information service strengthened

The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers has beefed up a "Rapid Response" program to inform the public how to recoup financial losses from damage to landscapes caused by natural disasters.

Rapid Response sends news stories to media in affected areas so that the media can inform the public how they can recapture some of the financial losses incurred when plants and landscape are damaged by storms. The service also directs the public to tree, nursery, and landscape professionals for advice and counsel.

Although a service of CTLA, the program is supported by the American Association of Nurserymen, American Society of Consulting Arborists, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, International Society of Arboriculture, and the National Arborist Association.

Paul Dawson, director of communications for CTLA, said the "Rapid Response" phone number (202/347-8219) is distributed to members of all five associations. "They post it somewhere to remind them to phone the Council if an event which damages trees and landscape strikes their area."

"When somebody phones us we immediately prepare a press release which is sent by mailgram to most of the media in the affected area," Dawson added. "The story tells the public how to arrange to get an appraisal from a landscape professional, how to deal with their homeowner's insurance . . . , and how to approach the tax loss situation."

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Timing of Silvex suspension inconsiderate

EPA's Deputy Administrator Barbara Blum said 2,4,5-T was banned recently to protect citizens from another spring exposure, but it also caused retail nurserymen to get stuck with brand new inventories.

The emergency ban came after most businesses had ordered and received 2,4,5-T products, but before they could sell any of it. Storage space, often critically short, is occupied with products that can't be sold for a period through August at the shortest.

Criticism of the chemical, brought mainly by instances of disruption of pregnancy near forests treated with 2,4,5-T, has been voiced for a considerable length of time. Had there been real question about the chemical's safety, an early suspension could have saved businesses from wasted inventory expense and storage space.

2,4,5-T hearings begin, three judges involved

In an unusual move, EPA has assigned three administrative law judges to hear representatives from 30 firms defending continued use of 2,4,5-T and opponents. Usually one judge is involved, but EPA says three judges were needed due to the volume of information to be heard and the complexity of the overall situation.

The judges must make a decision by July, and EPA Administrator Costle must announce his decision by August. Until then, the products remain on emergency suspension.

A federal court in Flint, Michigan, denied a request by Dow Chemical Co., to lift the ban on some products containing 2,4,5-T.

Alternatives to Silvex described

Margaret Herbst of the New York State Nurserymen's Assoc. has released a list of substitutes for 2,4,5-T for use until the suspension is resolved. They are Am Chem's Super D Weedone, Acme's Weed No More, and Spectrum 33 Plus by Ciba Geigy Corp.

Disposal guidelines stepped up

Embarrassed by national television coverage of problem toxic chemical disposal sites, EPA is stepping up its effort to watch over all old and new hazardous material dump sites. Deputy Administrator Barbara Blum announced that efforts will be made to speed up a plan to monitor and enforce disposal regulations in hazardous waste dump sites. Currently, the program was not expected to take effect until next year.

Blum estimated there are 800 known hazardous waste dump sites, and thousands of unknown older sites which need checking. Blum has requested more money and more lawyers to bolster enforcement activity.

the seminar speaker at the Pacific Horticultural Trade Show, September 6-8, at the Long Beach Convention Center. He will discuss the "Survival of the Independent Nursery and Lawn and Garden Retailer."

Greenidge has conducted lawn and garden management seminars across the United States and has also directed several national surveys sponsored by the Lawn & Garden Distributors Association.

The show is being sponsored by the California Association of

Nurserymen. For further information contact trade show manager Richard C. Staples, 1419 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call (916) 443-7373. For hotel information call the Long Beach Convention Center Information Bureau at (213) 436-3645.

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According to Turfco President Bill Kaercher.

The Sod Master line includes the Metermatic Topdresser for golf greens, the Edgerrite sandtrap edger, the Sub-Air aerator for deep aerification, the Bantam sod cutter for small sod nurseries, and the Pipe Piper vibratory wire and pipe installer.

Jacobsen bought Sod Master in 1969 and merchandised the line through its distributors. Turfco purchased Sod Master prior to the recent purchase of Jacobsen by Textron. The Sod Master name, production facilities, and many of the distributors will remain the same. The color of the equipment will be changed to deep brown and light tan.

Kaercher said changes will include new distributors and new products, including a topdresser for the EZ Go truck. Turfco's address is 3456 Washington Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55412.

GOLF

Alexander to manage Sea Pines golf courses

Dr. Paul Alexander, a specialist in golf agronomy, has been named vice-president of golf at the Sea Pines Plantation Co., Hilton Head, S.C. Alexander had previously been with Sea Pines from 1973-1974 as staff vice-president for agronomy.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State University Alexander served on the botany and plant pathology staff at Clemson University until 1969 and headed Clemson's turfgrass management program.

Before joining Sea Pines in 1973 he had been director of education for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Alexander received his bachelor of science degree in horticulture from California State Polytechnic College and a master of science degree in botany and plant pathology from Ohio State University.

HORTICULTURE

Independent nursery survival topic of Pacific show

Charles D. Greenidge, prominent management consultant for the lawn and garden industry, will be