

LANDSCAPE

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Californians plan first landscape show

The first annual Landscape Industry Show ever produced by the California Landscape Contractors Association has been scheduled for April 3-4 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

The show will feature the latest in equipment and plant materials for landscape and irrigation contractors, landscape maintenance contractors, nurserymen, landscape architects, and anyone else connected with or interested in the landscape industry.

The event will also contain exhibits on business methods, machinery, and products to help the industry cope with the rapid growth and expansion it has experienced in recent years.

ALCA will lobby at construction conference

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America, co-sponsors of the 1980 Construction Industry National Legislative Conference, hope to influence the Federal government on a number of important issues at the three-day meeting.

The program, which will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C., on March 16-18, includes workshops on equal employment opportunity, collective bargaining, pension law, labor legislation, multi-employer certification, and the role of the Federal government in aiding small business. Senators, Representatives, and high-ranking officials of the executive agencies will speak.

"Our overall intent is lobbying," says John Shaw, executive director of ALCA. "We hope to influence the governmental environment in which landscape contractors operate, and secondarily, make members more aware of the governmental environment they work in and more aware of what influence they can have on it."

Blacksburg, VA, indicates that below-freezing temperatures and prolonged dormancy may hinder the survival of bermudagrass. The laboratory tests also showed that short deacclimation periods before freezing may lessen winter injury in the field.

D.R. Chalmers and R.E. Schmidt investigated the effects of deacclimation, freezing temperatures, and duration of dormancy after exposure to freezing temperature on 'Tifgreen' bermudagrass. They deacclimated the grass from zero to eight days at 27/13 degrees C. (day/night), subjected rhizomes and stolons to temperatures of +2 to -6 degrees C. for 24 hours, and kept one-third of the samples in dark storage for 0, 45, and 90 days at about 2.7 degrees C.

Prolonging dormancy after exposure to low temperatures reduced the viability of both stolon and rhizome node buds. This suggests that continuation of the dormant condition on into spring could be an important contributing factor

to the decrease in winter survival of both bermudagrass rhizome and stolon buds.

SALES

Toro reports quarter of \$101.6 million sales

The Toro Co. has announced record first quarter sales for the period ending Oct. 31, 1979. Its earnings of \$101,596,000 are an increase of 52.8 percent over the same quarter last year.

Toro Chairman David T. McLaughlin said a 59.6 percent increase in sales of snow removal equipment was a major factor in the quarter. Sales of snow removal equipment in the first quarter accounted for 64 percent of total sales, consumer lawn equipment for 18 percent of the total, professional turf equipment for 9 percent, and irrigation equipment for 8 percent.

HERBICIDES

Devrinol labeled for ornamentals, liners

Devrinol, a surface-applied herbicide, has been federally registered for weed control in ornamentals, field-grown nursery stock, liner stock, ground covers, and dichondra.

The Stauffer Chemical Co. product has been labeled to control eight annual grasses, including barnyardgrass, bristly fox-tail, and large crabgrass, as well as 12 annual broadleaf weeds, including common purslane, lambs-quarter, and redroot pigweed.

It can be applied as a broadcast treatment over young nursery stock or as a directed spray to larger stock either as a band or broadcast application, and is recommended on several different container potting soil mixtures. Application can be made any time of the year to weed-free soil.

WEEDS

National program hits weeds from every angle

The multidisciplinary National Research Program is designed to develop weed control technology that will reduce the losses weeds cause and the cost of their control.

The research is organized into 122 projects at 45 locations and is conducted by 64 scientists in cooperation with several Federal agencies, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, private universities, and industrial research organizations.

During the decade 1977 to 1986, the technology from this program is expected to produce total net benefits that include:

1. Reduction in the crop losses caused by weeds from 10 percent to seven percent resulting in an annual savings in production valued at \$2 billion.

2. Reduction of 10 percent in the current cost of weed control resulting in a net annual savings of about \$620 million.

3. Improvement in the quality of crops by one percent resulting in a net increase crop value of \$600 million per year.

4. An increase of four percent in crop production efficiency valued at an estimated \$2 billion each year.

5. Reduction of 4 to 8 billion gallons per year in diesel fuel re-