

# LANDSCAPE

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faces higher energy costs and a lower supply of water—and they can expect to command higher salaries.

This outlook was presented by Dr. J.B. Beard, professor of turf and crop physiology at Texas A&M University, at the 1981 Nebraska Turfgrass Conference and Show held January 12 to 14 in Omaha, Nebraska. The annual event is sponsored by the Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation, the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service, and the University of Nebraska Department of Horticulture.

With high energy costs, conservation will be a high priority, Beard told the 575 turf professionals attending the conference. Trends to selective mowing of certain areas, use of more energy-efficient reel mowers, and increased use of large equipment are on the horizon, he stated.

Since nitrogen costs are higher, he said, "there is a need to accept a less deep green color in some areas and develop varieties that will hold their green color at lower nitrogen levels." He predicted more research on growth regulators to develop grasses which require less frequent mowing.

Water quality may decline, Beard warned, as salt and boron levels build up with increased use of effluent. And the quantity of water available for turf also will be reduced. "We have far too many intensively managed turf areas that are overwatered."

## MEETING

### Weed science meeting held in Philadelphia

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, held January 6-8 at The Philadelphia Sheraton Hotel, drew more than 400 members.

About 140 scientific papers were presented on horticulture, ecology, agronomy, ornamentals, and forestry. "There was a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting because of the current nature of the papers," said Garry Schnappinger, NWSS president. "They discussed new chemical compounds and those that would be on the market in a year or so."

The keynote speaker, Dr. Jack D. Early, president of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, spoke on "Pesticide Regulation: How Much Is Enough?" Dr. Early criticized the "unscientific handling of scientific data by regulatory officials," citing the recent recall of the proposed nitrite ban

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# CONTRACTOR NEWS

## Landscape costs increased 14% over 1979

A recent management survey conducted by the National Landscape Association reveals that all costs of plant materials, supplies, and services have risen overall 14 percent from 1979 to 1980.

The survey asked members from all regions of the country to indicate the percent of increase (or decrease) they experienced in landscape costs for 1980. The particular categories included trees, shrubs, evergreens, ground covers, fuel, fertilizer, mulch, freight, and labor. Fuel was by far the largest area of increased costs, rated at 30 percent on a national basis. Freight, fertilizer, and labor also rose a high percentage.

In regional variations, it was interesting to note that for most items the greatest increases as a region were experienced in the Southeast, while the smallest increases were noted in the Great Lakes area.

LANDSCAPE COST COMPARISONS 1980 vs 1979  
(% Change from 1979)

Region	Trees	Shrubs	Evergreens	Ground Covers	Fuel	Fertilizer	Mulch	Freight	Labor	Overall
Northeast	+12	+11	+13	+8	+27	+16	+13	+12	+13	+10
Southeast	+8	+13	+13	+8	+43	+22	+14	+18	+24	+19
Great Lakes	+6	+5	+7	+7	+28	+9	+8	+24	+15	+9
Plains	+10	+10	+11	+7	+25	+10	+12	+16	+13	+15
Others	+18	+13	+11	+8	+19	+17	+13	+23	+11	+15
National	+12%	+10%	+11%	+7%	+30%	+15%	+12%	+18%	+13%	+14%

## Behnke installed as president of ASLA

William Behnke, a landscape architect from Cleveland, was installed as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects at the group's annual meeting last November.

To prepare for his service to ASLA, Behnke invited landscape architects from all over the U.S. and Canada to Cleveland to discuss how they might have more control over their economic destiny. After the meeting, he said, "Improvement of our financial potential need not lessen or endanger our professional ethics. Both improvement of the long range economic future and the need to maintain high standards of professionalism are possible."

Calvin Bishop, a Houston-based member, will serve as president-elect of the group. Vice presidents elected for 1981 include Donald Fox of Yosemite National Park and Brian Kubota of Kansas.

Also at the meeting, ASLA awarded their highest honor to William Grant Swain, president of GWSM, Inc., Landscape Architects, of Pittsburgh.

## ALCA Field Day planned for Milwaukee

The student event of the year sponsored by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and their student chapter at Milwaukee Area Technical College occurs April 3-5 at MATC in Milwaukee.

This event represents a chance for college students throughout the country to meet and compete in activities directly related to the skills necessary in the horticulture industry. It is also a time to meet with prospective employers in the landscape industry to discuss full or part-time employment.

Activities include identification of insects and plants, operating equipment and designing landscapes, and basic horticulture work with plants. For more information, write Milwaukee Area Technical College, North Campus Center, 5555 West Highland Rd., Mequon, WI 53092.