

by the Editorial Staff, *Weeds Trees & Turf* magazine

## Story: chemicals replacing people

You won't see as many Milwaukee (Wisc.) County workers performing the maintenance chores in the local parks as you once did. And the *Milwaukee Journal* says it's because of that little jug of pesticide the county has in its garage.

In a recent story, the newspaper says that chemicals are increasingly taking over from county workers the task of park maintenance.

The *Journal* says the county had 872 full-time employees in 1981 compared to 763 today, a 12.5 percent cut in four years.

Since 1980, chemical purchases (mostly pesticides) have jumped 61 percent, from \$87,000 to \$143,000 in 1985.

The story projects the 1986 chemical budget at \$155,000.

According to *Journal* logic, this means that pesticides are replacing people. We think the recession of the early 1980s played a larger role in reducing the number of workers. And we still don't know of a product on the market that puts itself on the ground.

While we don't agree with the story's deduction, we believe it shows that the chemical market is on solid ground and ready to expand even further in the future.

## Just what is an infrastructure?

The City of Placentia, Calif., has recently begun a program designed to educate its citizens about their infrastructure. City administrator Roger L. Kemp tells WT&T that a city's infrastructure is vitally important. "We felt that our citizens should be made aware of what constitutes the term 'infrastructure,' as well as the value of their municipal improvements," he says. It's also a unique way of campaigning for a tax increase to support the infrastructure program.

To that end, the city designed an official-looking "Infrastructure Stock Certificate" that defines the word "infrastructure" in layman's terms and notes the value of the city's capital assets. The certificate, entitling each holder to one share of the city's infrastructure stock, was distributed to all residents and businesses.

Funding for the five-year Infrastructure Development Plan was decided in a November election.

Oh, by the way, a city's infrastructure includes among other things, its median islands, parks, and public facilities.

## Five-year forecast is bright

According to Chuck Greenidge, Greenidge & Associates, the next five years look good for the lawn and garden market. Greenidge, speaking at a national hardware show, noted that residential and commercial interior landscaping is increasing and is expected to maintain a growing pace into the late 1980s.

He predicted total industry sales for 1985 will increase 23 to 28 percent over last year.

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