

# SHORT CUTS

**THATCH ANSWERS.....**Why do your turfgrass areas have thatch? There is still much research to be done, says Ohio State University's Dr. John Street, but there are also some misconceptions to correct. "Some studies indicate that, in cool-season grasses, there's no relationship between the use of nitrogen and thatch accumulation," he says. Dr. Street also notes this: it's been proven that the higher you mow the grass, the more thatch can accumulate, but there's no consistent relationship between thatch occurrence and pre-emergent and broadleaf herbicide use.

**WINTER OF DISCONTENT.....**That's what it's been at Dartmouth College. Last month a faculty committee report contended that academic quality was threatened by poor leadership. The report cited college president David T. McLaughlin for a decision-making style that had led to a recurring sense of crisis, according to the *New York Times*. McLaughlin used to head The Toro Co. When he abruptly left in the early 1980s, people were probably saying the same thing. Toro grows quite well now under the leadership of Kendrick Melrose.

**AUTHOR, AUTHOR.....**Paul Domholt of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board recently became a well-known writer. He co-authored "How to Prune Trees the Right Way" in the February edition of *The Family Handyman* magazine. Domholt, who also edits the board's "Knotty News" newsletter, collaborated with Mark Schmidlin on the magazine article.

**CONTROLLED CONTROL.....**Ciba-Geigy Corp. has come up with a novel idea: pre-measured fungicide. Lawn managers need only loosen one cap, squeeze, and the right amount of Subdue fungicide is pre-measured, in a separate compartment right in the quart bottle. Then you just pour and apply. It's a concept more pesticide manufacturers would do well to emulate, since it also decreases the possibility of a spill.

**'PROGRAM' NOTES.....**George W. Park Seed Co. is entering the fast-growing market in computer programming for the green industry. It has added landscape, nursery and financial manager programs to its line of GreenHaus software. The landscape manager program consists of estimating, job costing, inventory, purchase order tracking, and accounts receivable. Landscape managers can create hypothetical estimates and often establish more competitive positions in bidding for jobs. For more information, contact Dave Phillips or Greg Gabrels at Park, Cokesbury Rd., Greenwood, SC, 29647-0001; phone (800) 845-3366.

**REFERENCE POINTS.....**Two special issues of the *Lakeshore News* are being offered as references for green industry professionals. One covers turfgrass and wildflower seed, the other pre-emergence herbicides. To obtain copies, write Grass Seed Issue or Pre-Emergence Issue, Lesco, Inc., PO Box 16915, Rocky River, OH, 44116. Include \$1 to cover the cost of postage and handling.

**'HOUNDING' THE SOIL.....**One of the most popular products in the green industry, judging by the response of WEEDS TREES & TURF readers, is the Rock Hound Landscape Rake, an attachment for a Bobcat loader that picks rocks and debris from soil. Three-hundred sixty teeth are positioned so that stones as small as 3/4-inch and as large as eight inches are picked up. Melroe Co. has purchased the rights to manufacture the Rock Hound and to sell the Rock Hound to its own dealers.

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