

SALARIES

Midwest boasts highest workers' wages

According to a wage survey conducted by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS), landscape workers make more money in the Midwest than in other parts of the country.

A permanent laborer in the Midwest pulls in an average of \$8.32 per hour (the Midwest includes North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio).

His counterpart in other areas of the country doesn't make as much. In the Northeast, the average is \$7.43. Other areas: Far West, \$6.57; Mid-Atlantic, \$6.54; Southwest, \$5.87; and Southeast, \$4.82.

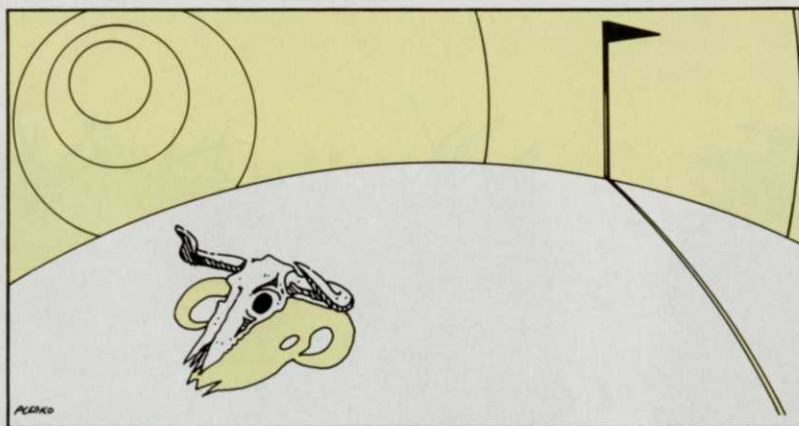
PGMS 1986 Salary survey by region

	North East	South East	Mid Atlantic	Mid West	South West	Far West
Assistant	\$10.32	\$8.01	\$8.98	\$10.18	\$8.34	\$10.56
Foreman	\$8.98	\$6.15	\$8.15	\$9.32	\$7.96	\$8.28
Mechanic	\$9.08	\$7.48	\$8.66	\$10.03	\$7.20	\$8.87
Seasonal Laborer	\$5.39	\$4.30	\$4.98	\$4.72	\$4.47	\$4.81
Permanent Laborer	\$7.43	\$4.82	\$6.54	\$8.32	\$5.87	\$6.57

The Midwest foreman fares better than his peers in other areas. He pulls an average hourly wage of \$9.32 compared to the others: Northeast, \$8.98; Far West, \$8.28;

Mid-Atlantic, \$8.15; Southwest, \$7.96; and Southeast, \$6.15.

The survey was based on 157 responses from the PGMS membership.



GOLF

Summer drought devastates Southeast courses

Water rationing and dry irrigation ponds on golf courses in the Southeastern U.S. this summer have altered maintenance practices of many superintendents.

Less frequent mowing and fertilization became common practices because of a lack of rainfall in June and July.

"We were about 14 inches below average for rainfall," noted Dave Powell of Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, N.C. "As a result, we just barely kept the grass alive and green. We cut our water use back to a third of what we normally use."

Added Andy Brennan of Temple Hills Golf and Country Club,

Nashville, Tenn.: "I normally have five lakes that I pump from, but I emptied a couple. We also lowered our fertilization rates."

Things were as bad in Georgia. "My fairways were really brown and off-color," said Randy Nichols of Cherokee Town and Country Club, Dunwoody. "We lost some bermudagrass on the fairway, and bermudagrass is hard to kill. There is such stress on the grass that (at one point) we didn't mow any fairways, roughs or tees in 3½ weeks."

Besides cutting back irrigation and fertilization, Nichols also didn't allow golfers to stray from cart paths.

CHEMICALS

Union Carbide agchem is put up for sale

After months of delay, Union Carbide put its Agricultural Chemicals Division up for sale in July. Though the division has had its share of problems the past 1½ years—including the gas leak in Bhopal, India—the decision to sell was actually made last year, Union Carbide president Robert D. Kennedy claims.

"It came as no surprise," says Tom Arnold, manager of specialty products. "We'd been hearing rumors for months. The people around here are treating it like it's finally a relief to know for sure we're on the block."

Arnold would not speculate on what would happen to personnel since the buyer is yet to be determined.

Value of the agchem division is placed somewhere around \$500 million. Possible buyers mentioned by industry analysts include FMC (a major Union Carbide customer), PPG Industries, Dow Chemical, Rhom and Haas, Monsanto, American Cyanamid, BASF, Ciba-Geigy, Hoechst, and Imperial Chemical Industries.

The *Wall Street Journal* speculated that the division was put up for sale because Union Carbide wanted to reduce a \$5.5 billion debt incurred earlier this year while fending off a takeover bid by GAF.

Union Carbide manufactures Weedone DPC herbicide and Sevin insecticide for the turf market.

LANDSCAPING

L.A. Beautiful aids landscape contractors

Other large cities might take Los Angeles as a good example of a community and its industry working hand-in-hand.

Witness Los Angeles Beautiful, a non-profit organization that cooperates with southern California landscapers to keep the public vista looking as clean and beautiful as possible.

"The landscape is part of your life," claims Gail Watson, executive director. "Our slogan is 'Beauty is good business.' I don't know of any other city with quite as comprehensive a plan as us."

Los Angeles Beautiful was the first—and remains the best—organization of its kind. It was founded in 1949 by the woman who also designed the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign.

Serving as technical advisors to the organization are Stewart Sperber of Valley Crest Tree Service, John Boething of Boething Tree/Land Nursery, and Rose Marie Head, chairperson of the California Landscape Contractors Association. Burton Sperber and Bob Scofield of Environmental Industries are judges in L.A.



Gail Watson, executive director, Los Angeles Beautiful: "Our slogan is 'Beauty is good business.'"

Beautiful's annual community awards program, which draws about 200 entries and recognizes the top landscape contracting companies in the area.

"We feel people are responsible for their own environment," says Watson. "Beauty is not just skin deep. Environment affects attitudes. It reflects

pride or lack of it; it reflects how people work."

L.A. Beautiful has also recently established a water conservation program. "We're trying to educate the public that they have choices. Basically, water conservation is people rather than plants," Watson observes.

CONVENTIONS

Four national meetings coming next month

Dual keynoters will be the highlight of the first joint ALCA/PGMS convention and trade show in Milwaukee next month. That show is one of four major national conventions involving green industry trade associations next month.

Keynoting the educational portion of the convention are former Texas and New Mexico Congressman Ed Foreman and managerial consultant George Wright. The meeting will be held Nov. 9-12 in Milwaukee's Mark Plaza Hotel. Also scheduled are presentation of the annual PGMS awards and a bus tour of Milwaukee and some of its landscape contractors.

The following week, Nov. 17-20, the seventh annual PLCAA convention and trade show will feature Dr. Charles Garfield, au-

thor of "The New Heroes of American Business." Site of the event is the 28,000-square-foot Baltimore Convention Center. "Every indication shows that floor space will be a sellout," notes PLCAA assistant executive director Doug Moody.

Former EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus will address the membership of the American Society of Landscape Architects at that convention Nov. 22-25. The event will be held at the site of this year's GCSAA show, Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Finally, the National Institute on Park and Grounds Management will hold its annual conference in Louisville, Ky. Plans include tours of Churchill Downs, Cave Hill Cemetery and the University of Louisville.

PESTICIDES

Study condemns uses of 2,4-D herbicide

Landscape managers may again be in jeopardy of losing access to 2,4-D, a popular broadleaf herbicide, following publication of a new study by the National Cancer Institute and the University of Kansas.

The study claims that farmers exposed to herbicides 20 days a year or more were 600 percent more likely to contract lymphatic cancer than people who did not work with such chemicals.

Dr. Shelia Hoar, the report's chief author, added that the higher cancer risk was particularly associated with 2,4-D. The *New York Times* quoted Dr. Hoar: "One can't base a regulatory program on one study alone, but if this finding is confirmed there would be serious regulatory implications such as restricting the use of herbicides."

John A. Moore of the EPA said that
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the study would probably cause his agency to re-assess laws now governing pesticides containing 2,4-D.

Dave Dietz of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (PPPF) has assembled a task force to deal with what could be a real problem for proponents of the compound.

"The problem with the media is that they're not reporting the whole story, and it's a good one for 2,4-D," says Dietz. "It states that casual use does not pose a risk. And for high exposure techniques, the normal precautions—wearing gloves and good hygiene—greatly reduce the risk."

Dietz's task force plans to question the authors.

"We want to know why this report does not stack up with the millions of dollars of other research," Dietz says. "We're trying to sort through this stuff, but the press, quite frankly, is providing an obstacle."

CONFERENCES

Landscape Expo to cover the spectrum

A comprehensive conference program is scheduled for the 1987 Landscape Exposition next March 3-5 at Chicago's O'Hare Exposition Center.

Concurrent seminars specifically designed for both landscape contractors and managers in the public sector will be held. In addition, special technical sessions on groundwater, thatch, herbicides, plant growth regulators, and turf renovation will be offered.

Altogether, the Landscape Expo management team plans on 30 different seminars spread out over 54 hours.

For information on exhibiting or attending, contact Dawn Pratt at HBJ Expositions and Conferences, P.O. Box 2044, Ridgefield, CT 06877; (800) 243-2815.

CONVENTIONS

PLCAA program on equipment maintenance

A special, hour-long turf equipment maintenance and service seminar is scheduled during the Professional Lawn Care Association of America Conference and Show next month in Baltimore.

The session, "Mowing Equipment Maintenance: Three Case Histories of Success," will be conducted by Rich Smith, commercial service training manager for The Toro Co., Minneapolis.

The seminar will feature a slide presentation with audio based on in

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SHORTCUTS

FOLLOWING GOLF RELIGIOUSLY...The sport of golf is firmly linked with the Church of Perfect Liberty in Japan. The church operates courses in several countries, including a 36-hole spread in Japan, where some of the churches have driving ranges on their roofs. One follower says, "Golf is a favored sport because it requires such concentration on details, and because it can be played by almost anyone."

MONEY-MAKER..."A golf course that makes money plays fast." So says owner Jay Scott of Tanglewood Golf Club, Delaware, Ohio. Scott likes golfers to play their 18 holes in a maximum of 4 hours, 20 minutes. "That's when that seven minutes off the tee really clicks," he notes. The result? 280 golfers per day and a nice piece of profit.

MOVIE-MAKER...Janet Hartin, horticultural specialist for the San Bernardino County (Calif.) Cooperative Extension Service, recently helped film a motion picture that will be distributed world-wide next spring. The movie, "Seasons," was being filmed in Southern California by the people that make pictures for giant IMAX screens (those five-story moviehouses commonly found at amusement parks). Hartin re-wrote the script for technical accuracy and suggested possible shots that would be consistent with the script. She learned one thing during her stint with the film company, that these things take time. "One day, we worked 12 hours and only produced three minutes of film," she says.

A PROBLEM WEED...Wayne Perkins, golf superintendent at Colonial Country Club in Jackson, Miss. (he facetiously calls it the "Weed Capital of Mississippi"), informs WEEDS TREES & TURF that his biggest problem weed is the Virginia buttonweed. "I haven't found anything yet that will control it," he says. According to the WT&T Weed Control Guide (March, 1986), multiple applications of 2,4-D plus dicamba, Trimec, or Trex-San are almost always necessary. Researchers suggest using a non-ionic surfactant with the herbicide.

NEW KID IN TOWN...Jacklin Seed of Post Falls, Id., has a new research director, says Doyle Jacklin. Dr. Doug Brede, a Penn State University grad, has replaced Dr. Leah Brilman. Brede was previously at Oklahoma State University where one of his projects involved research on a chemical to pre-treat bluegrass seed to help prevent disease. Brede began work in September.

USEFUL INFORMATION AVAILABLE...Proceedings from the last two symposiums on turfgrasses, sponsored by ChemLawn Services Corp., are now available. Papers from the 1981 symposium on turfgrass weeds are available in "Advances in Weed Control." Proceedings from the 1982 symposium on turfgrass fertility are combined in "Advances in Turfgrass Fertility." The proceedings include up-to-date information (1986) with photos, tables, and charts. Cost is \$19.50 for one or \$36.50 for two. Orders can be sent to: H.G. Inc., PO Box 640, Piqua, OH 45356-9990.

interviews with actual landscape managers in three categories: in business less than one year, in business more than two years, and in business more than five years.

The session is slated for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19. All PLCAA registrants are eligible to attend. For further information, contact the PLCAA at (404) 977-5222.

GOLF EQUIPMENT

Deere enters golf and turf markets

John Deere has introduced 12 products designed specifically for use on golf courses, sports fields, and other intensive-care groundskeeping operations. The products signal Deere's entry into the golf and turf markets.

"We have begun to put in place a significant new distributor organization that will provide golf course superintendents and other turf managers with the service that has traditionally been the strength of our organization," says Gary Gottschalk, manager of golf and turf products.

The new products include a walk-behind greensmower, 3- and 5-gang hydraulic reel mowers, 20- and 24-hp diesel turf mowers, a boom mower, a utility vehicle, one pull-type and four 3-point hitch aerifiers.

MEETINGS

Soil is the key to healthy turfgrass

"Simply stated, a healthy, productive soil yields healthy plants less dependent upon chemicals to sustain them."

That is the philosophy of Robert Riley of Green Pro Services, Hempstead, N.Y. Riley, a noted lecturer and consultant, reviewed his own cultural program for turf at a symposium entitled "Organics...the Key to Great Lawns and Gardens."

Using his own application business as a test lab, Riley reported dramatic improvement in the overall health of his lawns. Compacted soils became much more friable and root systems averaged 9 to 12 inches deep. As soil conditions gradually improved, Riley was then able to reduce the need for pesticides.

Also on the program were Dr. Norm Hummel of Cornell University and Dr. Eliot Roberts of The Lawn Institute. Dr. Hummel pointed out that many turf managers neglect soil, focusing most of their attention strictly on top growth of turf. And Dr. Roberts underlined the points Riley had made.

"As time goes on," said Roberts, *continued on page 14*

"more professionals will swing toward this more natural system which relies on humus and organic fertilizers and decreases the emphasis on pesticides."

TREES

Chicago looks for more urbanized trees

A dispute between a Chicago arboretum and an adjacent highway could result in benefits to both—and to other cities, as well.

The 64-year old Morton Arboretum and a proposed north-south toll road connecting Chicago's north-west suburbs and O'Hare International Airport are the focus of the debate.

The East-West Tollway has run along the southern edge of the arboretum for years. Now, the new route would run down the east side of the arboretum and cut 12 acres off the corner of the 1,500-acre site.

The arboretum has brought suit. And—although the Army Corps of Engineers is still investigating the environmental impact of the highway—an agreement has been reached.

The road will be built below ground level as it passes through the

arboretum to minimize noise. The tollway authority also has set up a \$2.5 million trust fund.

George Ware, Morton's research director, suggested spending the \$200,000 generated each year from the trust fund to study the problems created by the road, developing breeds of plants and trees for urban settings, and planting them along the highway for testing.

"There are adversities galore for living plants in urban environments," Ware says. "As our society becomes ever more urbanized, we need ever more kinds of plants that can cope with this harsh environment of man's."

Ware's researchers have identified several promising varieties of trees and shrubs from China. Tolerant poplars and willows, and even the American elm will also be studied.

Ware and others have spent more than a decade developing several new breeds of disease-resistant elms, some of which are sold under the name of Accolade.

Ware's research will help develop plants and trees which can resist the constant assault of car fumes, road salting, pests, and construction. "City streets and expressways are, by

nature, not very forestlike," he says. "So if we can't change the city, maybe we can change the plants to make them more tolerant."

PEOPLE

Arizona Contractors name exec director

Charles L. Richardson is executive director of the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association. He is a former U.S. government employee and graduate of Michigan State University and Yale University.

Craig Edminster joins Interna-



Craig Edminster



Gary Dorsch

tional Seeds of Halsey, Ore., as research agronomist. He previously worked for the FFR Cooperative in Salem, Ore.

O.M. Scott & Sons makes several



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SOME WORKERS DON'T

staff changes. **Gary Dorsch**, formerly a Scotts technical rep for the Chicago area, is named manager of customer training for the ProTurf Division. **Wayne G. Horman** is technical rep for the Lawn Care Service Supply Group of the ProTurf Division. **Steve Rudich** is technical rep for the southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and northern Delaware areas. **Dave Henricksen**, **Mike Hieser**, and **Rick Elyea** join the ProTurf Division as technical reps.



Wayne Horman

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation names its officers: president, **Ed Odorizzi**, Riviera Country Club; president-elect, **Doug Halterman**, Leisure Lawn Inc.; vice-president, **Rick Kucharski**, Winding Hollow Country Club; treasurer, **Paul Jacquemin**, Chemlawn Corp.; executive secretary, **John Street**, Ohio State University.

W.H. Clark Jr. is elected chairman of the board of the **Chemical Manufacturers Association**. He is chairman of the board, president, and chief execu-

tive officer of **Nalco Chemical Co.**

Fernando Lozano, former general sales manager for Dow Chemical's Latin American Agricultural Division, joins **Marman USA Inc.** as director of commercial aspects of Marman's Caribbean, and Central and South American operations.

Middlesworth Engineering and Manufacturing appoints **Tom Phillips** regional sales manager of the Turf Equipment Division. He is responsible for marketing zero-turning radius



Tom Phillips

mowers in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan.

Jim Foley joins **Thompson Manufacturing** as sales rep covering Northern California. He is a former sales rep for Filtomat Inc.

Rain Bird announces several staff changes. **Brendan Lynch** is Eastern



Brendan Lynch

specifications manager for the Turf Division. **Scott Smart** joins Rain Bird as Rocky Mountain district manager. **Paul Syiem** is marketing coordinator for the Turf Division. **Charlotte Schmitt** is golf marketing coordinator for Rain Bird Sales. **Walt Jackson** is



Scott Smart

appointed Turf Division marketing communications manager.



Paul Syiem



Charlotte Schmitt



Walt Jackson



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