

INDUSTRY

Twenty-five years of service to industry

"The green industry is larger than we ever thought it would be," comments Jim FitzGibbon, celebrating the 25th anniversary of his company, Lesco, Inc. "Lawn care was barely thought of at that time (1962). It then was the creampuff. I believe we were the first people to recognize lawn care as a market. And golf course budgets have increased dramatically in that time, too."

Lesco, under the guidance of FitzGibbon and co-founder Bob Burkhardt, has grown from sales of \$75,000 in 1962 to almost \$95 million in 1987.



Jim FitzGibbon

What's the secret to the company's success, which has come from sales through a fleet of vans, drive-through turf supply stores and inside telephone sales?

"It's all people that make a business successful," FitzGibbon says. "We also take a total market approach."

FitzGibbon, forever looking to the future, concludes: "It's been difficult, but it's been fulfilling for all of us. It's been exciting, and it's more exciting now than ever before. I think I'll stick around for the fun."

LEGISLATION

California laws flawed, claim UCR researchers

California laws which seek to limit pesticide use and protect the environment have had the opposite effect in many cases, say researchers at the University of California at Riverside.

Current California law has resulted in increased pesticide applications on ornamentals because it delays the registration of newer, more effective pesticides in the state. Provisions of the law can also contribute to the development of pesticide resistance in many insects, a news release from the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences notes.

"Time delays between national registration and the registration of pesticides in California should be reduced," says UCR entomologist Michael P. Parrella. "The current lag-time of three to five years puts Califor-

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PESTICIDE POISONINGS...In 1988, all Hawaii physicians will be required to report any pesticide-related injuries or poisonings. Dr. Bruce Anderson, deputy director of environmental programs for the Hawaii Department of Health, says the state will follow in California's footsteps in requiring the reports. "We now have a good diagnostic test for organophosphate poisonings," Anderson says. Despite the test, Anderson told the Pan Pacific Turfgrass Conference that it may take several years to get physicians to recognize the symptoms.

FOR JOB-HUNTERS ONLY...ACRT Inc. is in the business of training green industry workers; they've trained more than 2,600 in the last two years. They've now established a toll-free number to help their graduates find job openings in tree, landscape, line clearing, lawn care companies and nurseries. The number is (800) 622-2562—for ACRT grads only.

A NEW WEAPON...Riverdale Chemical Co. has received EPA registration for Weedestroy Triamine II, a three-way post-emergence selective broadleaf herbicide. Weedestroy Triamine III contains amines of MCPA, mecoprop and dichlorprop to kill dandelions, chickweed, plantain, oxalis, spurge and many other weeds. The amine formulation was developed as an alternative to 2,4-D.

BREATHING EASIER...3M Corporation will release a revolutionary respirator in early 1988, according to 3M account representative Bill Fink. Fink told the Pan Pacific Turfgrass Conference that the respirator will be known as the Powered Air Purifier Respirator (PAPR). PAPR will fit on a worker's belt and be rechargeable overnight for more than 10,000 hours. The respirator is being test marketed in Hawaii because of the state's high temperatures. Kathy Kramer, marketing/communications administrator at 3M's headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., would not release any further information on the new product.

PEOPLE NEEDED...Landscape Horticulture Center for Personnel Development is concerned with the lack of a viable work force in the landscape industry. So what's it doing? Developing an Apprenticeship Training Program for Landscape Technician and Landscape Management Technician. L.H.C.P.D. is a non-profit green industry support group structured to work with regional and national green industry organizations in areas of common interest. For more information, write or call: 2509 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 109, Westlake Village, CA 91362; (805) 498-6916.

KINDRED SOULS...Landscape managers in Maryland have united to form the Maryland Seeding Association for people who seed lawns, provide erosion control and do other contract seeding. They are looking for other such organizations in the United States to "compare notes." If you know of such an association, give Maryland president Jim Patton a call at (301) 924-4445. Or you can call executive secretary Diane Patton at (301) 384-6300.

HONORARY HONORS...C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., became the American Sod Producers Association's newest honorary member at the group's convention last summer. The world-renown turfgrass breeder and researcher joins only 10 others who have been chosen by the ASPA Board of Trustees for this honor in the organization's 20-year history.