

# SHORT CUTS

**DIFFERENT GROWING...**Four companies from the green industry made it into *Inc. magazine's* recently-published 1985 list of the 500 fastest growing private companies in America. Barefoot Grass Lawn Service, Worthington, Ohio, placed 224th. Suburban Landscape Associates, Davenport, Iowa, entered at 312th place. Ford's Chemical and Service, Pasadena, Tex., placed 447th, while the golf course construction firm Landscapes Unlimited, Lincoln, Neb., placed 473rd. The magazine bases its selection on a company's growth percentage over five years, with a sales ranging from no less than \$100,000 the first year and no more than \$25 million the last year. In addition, each company must be independent and privately owned.

**COMMEMORATIVE COLORS...**As part of the bicentennial celebration of the September 17, 1787 signing of the U.S. Constitution, Bicentennial Chairman Warren Burger is encouraging communities to plant "Constitution Gardens." They are intended to be a lasting tribute to the freedom the Constitution has brought the country.

Bedding Plants, Inc. is offering a free brochure to help design and plan the garden. The organization is encouraging garden planters to use red, white and blue flowers. The brochure lists 10 or more varieties of flowers of each color, as well as tips on planting. For a copy of the brochure, send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to Bicentennial, Bedding Plants, Inc., 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY 11762.

**MAKING A GRADE...**A new 16-page, four-color bulletin titled "Athletic Field Construction and Maintenance" is being made available to the green industry by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service. The booklet was written by D. H. Taylor, G.R. Blake and D.B. White. For copies, send \$1 to: Distribution Center, Extension Service, Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

**PULLING OUT THE RUG...**Howie Newman, a Boston-area sports writer, wants to get rid of artificial turf. He's started a nation-wide campaign called "Pull Out The Rug," to get support for doing away with synthetic surfaces. He's even distributed the song "Astroturf" to radio and television stations upon request. To support his efforts, "Pull Out The Rug" kits (bumper sticker and newsletter) are available by sending \$2.50 (three kits for \$6) to Howie Newman, 20 Hartshorn St., Malden, MA 02148 or call (617) 397-0384.

**SHOP-AT-HOME?...**A growing trend in the green industry is shop-at-home services being offered by some distributors. One New York company, Landscapers Supply, sells power equipment, engines, parts and accessories by phone. For more information, see the "Miscellaneous" heading in this month's classified section.

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cllopedia Britannica," "Encyclopedia Americana" and the "World Book."

During and after his employment as botanist for the Monsanto Co. and O.M. Scotts & Sons, he was a member of many professional organizations.

Schery spent five years in retirement from The Lawn Institute before dying of cancer at age 70.

## CHEMICALS

### Spraying moratorium does harm, not good

A month-long moratorium on spraying for aquatic weeds on Lake Okeechobee in south Florida imposed last August did more harm than good, says Kenneth R. Tefertiller, Ph.D., of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

The moratorium was not based on known research data, he said at a recent Florida House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing. Tefertiller, vice president of agricultural affairs at the University of Florida, was speaking on behalf of IFAS during budget hearings.

The moratorium was imposed over concerns about blue-green algae blooms on the lake caused by too much phosphorus. Spraying had killed hyacinths, which, when dead, sink and release phosphorus back into the water.

Halting the spraying did not reduce the levels, Tefertiller said, but instead allowed hyacinth growth the chance to get a head start. He added that more chemicals would be needed to control the hyacinth, at an added cost of \$100,000.

A grant from the South Florida Water Management District, which manages spray programs on the lake, to the IFAS Center for Aquatic Weeds will be used to write a white paper on "lessons learned from the moratorium," Tefertiller said.

## ASSOCIATIONS

### Video shows benefits, safety of lawn care

A nine-minute video about the safety and benefits of professional lawn care service has been produced for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America by the Ciba-Geigy Corp.

"Common Sense Answers to Turf Care Questions" is intended for use by LCOs to be presented at local community group meetings of regulators, chambers of commerce and other such groups.

The video features PLCAA's Jim Brooks and Gary Clayton, Virginia Tech professor John Hall, III and commercial real estate expert John McCracken of McCracken and Associates, Inc.