

Alan Almy (left) and Bob Rinck, co-authors of "Landscape Maintenance Guide," the first manual of its kind in the country.

## REFERENCE

### Housing Authority develops guidelines for management

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) has developed a two-volume "Landscape Maintenance Guide" which is being distributed to landscape contractors involved in MSHDA projects. This guide is believed to be the first of its kind in the country.

"This is a practical manual that can be used on a daily basis," says Bob Rinck, who co-authored the guide with Alan Almy. "It can apply to anyone who does multi-property sites. We're bordering on areas that other people haven't even touched."

Rinck says that 250 copies have been distributed free and that some colleges and design offices have also expressed interest in obtaining copies. A hardiness zone/climate/maintenance chart comes with the guide.

The guide has served to help strengthen the role of the landscape architect as a team leader among development owners, managers and tenants in maintaining quality housing, Rinck and Almy note.

For more information, contact Rinck, environmental review officer, or Almy, landscape architect, at (517) 373-2001. Address is 401 S. Washington Square, Lansing, MI 48909.

## RESEARCH

### An answer to anaerobic black layer?

Sulfur causes black layer in sand greens, according to researchers at Michigan State University. Black layer is a layer of anaerobic material found at the same level throughout a green.

Joe Vargas, Ph.D., of Michigan State University says theories on black layer attributed it to algae, root dysfunction and excessive water. But his current research shows sulfur to cause the problem.

"Yes, you see algae, but it comes in after the layer is already formed," Vargas says. A rotten egg-like odor will most likely indicate a black layer problem.

Excessive sulfur can get into the green by using water with a high sulfate content or treating a green with sulfur to help balance the pH level. It appears that acid rain also adds to the problem.

The combination of too much sulfur and saturated conditions usually leads to black layer. "You can be most frugal at watering, but then you'll get rain," Vargas says. "Don't mess with sulfur."

Vargas says that sulfur-coated urea products "probably won't release sulfur quick enough to cause a problem." Researchers plan to study potassium and iron sulfate products and those products containing sulfide in the future.

Vargas released his findings at the Reinders Turf Conference in Milwaukee, Wisc.



Joe Vargas, Ph.D.

## INDUSTRY

### ChemLawn reaches agreement on merger

A merger agreement has been reached between ChemLawn Corp. and Ecolab, Inc., St. Paul, Minn.

Ecolab will buy all outstanding shares of ChemLawn for \$36.50 each in cash, ChemLawn officials said. The deal is worth \$370 million.

ChemLawn originally was the tar-

get of a takeover attempt by Waste Management Inc., Oak Brook, Ill., which offered \$33 then \$35 per share.

ChemLawn rejected the Waste Management bid, then told its banker to seek other possible buyers.

ChemLawn had filed suit for a preliminary injunction from the federal

court in Columbus, Ohio after the initial bid, claiming that Waste Management failed to disclose in its tender offer an alleged history of environmental misconduct.

Waste Management officials view the lawsuit as a ploy to use the legal system to delay a tender offer.

## INSURANCE

# Fiberoptics cables create havoc in the turf and landscape industries

The fiberoptics concept may be revolutionary in the telephone industry, but it's giving landscape managers a headache. Fiberoptics has made it almost impossible for landscape contractors to get underground insurance.

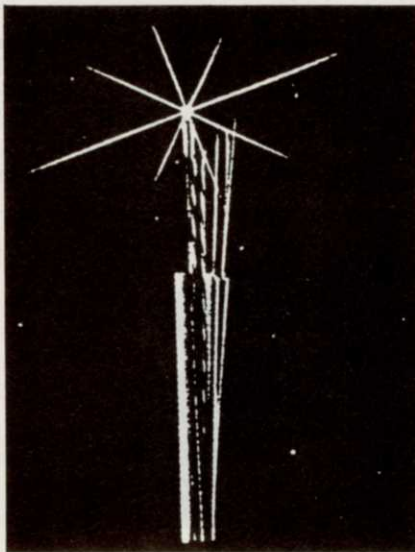
"The problem is that fiberoptics cables can't be spliced," says Jim Leatzow of Financial Guardian Insurance. "You have to dig up several blocks to put in a new one."

Fiberoptics cables are buried only 18 inches underground and can be cut with a shovel.

Leatzow says that some landscape managers may think they are covered, but really aren't. If the letter "U" appears on your policy it means you are not covered for underground. A letter "X" stands for explosion and "C" for collapse. When the letter appears, the company is not covered.

Landscape contractors are particularly hurt by the insurance crisis. But Leatzow says he never hesitates to issue a policy to a design/build firm: "Landscape contractors will fix a problem before it explodes," he says. "I think it's the best of situations, although the rest of the industry is fearful."

In looking for a good policy, Leatzow says to ask an agent to:



- provide more than one quote;
- assist you in identifying your prime areas of risk; and
- provide unique coverage.

To reduce the cost of your insurance program, Leatzow recommends:

- lowering coverage limits;
- accepting higher deductible;
- joining trade associations; and
- getting brokers and insurance companies involved.

Leatzow spoke at the Landscape Expo in Chicago, Ill.



## Manager of the Year

Michael Hugg (center) accepts congratulations and a plaque from Jeffrey Bourne (second from left), president of the Professional Grounds Maintenance Society for being named PGMS/LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT "Landscape Manager of the Year." Also shown (left to right) are LM group vice president Bob Earley, LM editor Jerry Roche and PGMS executive director Alan Shulder. The award was presented during the Landscape Expo in Rosemont, Ill.

## 1-2-3

Though state EPA regulations have not yet been standardized, towns like Paramus, N.J., have been taking the initiative on safe pesticide storage.

"The town is a forerunner in concerns for residents," says Ed Walsh, superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club.

About two years ago, the town began a chemical awareness program for residents. Part of the program required businesses that stored chemicals, even at low levels, to register for a permit. Walsh says that is not necessarily bad—in fact, it actually helped him.

Inspectors found the club's storage facility unacceptable, forcing the construction of a new facility. Walsh intended to build one soon anyway. This just gave him a good way to get funding for it.

The facility was built under recommendations from George Stanton, a chemical safety engineer. Specifications:

1. Two-thirds of the 1000-square feet, used for fertilizer storage, is unheated.

2. The other compartment is separated by a brick wall. It contains the pesticides, and is well ventilated and heated.

3. The floor on the heated side is six inches below the door sill to prevent seepage if a spill occurs.

Walsh believes his building will be up to standard. The only possible addition he foresees is a concrete apron about six to 10 feet out from the building surrounded by a two-foot-high wall to prevent seepage.

Walsh hopes that, if and when EPA regulations are standardized, engineers like Stanton will work with EPA.

INDUSTRY

## Immigration laws spawn new programs

New immigration legislation aimed at reducing the number of illegal aliens in the U.S. is causing employers to scramble for ways to maintain their workforces.

The new law requires employers to fill out an Employee Eligibility Certification (Form I-9) for every person hired after November 6, 1986, and for all those hired in the future.

The form must be signed by the employee within 24 hours after beginning employment and kept on file three years or one year after the end of employment, whichever is longer.

Failure to follow these procedures can result in fines from \$100 to \$1,000 per employee after June 1, 1987. The law makes it illegal to hire illegal aliens.

As a result, Apprentice Programs are being administered through organized and regulated processes to train replacement workers or finish training illegal aliens as they become naturalized. (Amnesty programs to le-

galize unauthorized aliens are part of Immigration Reform.)

The Landscape Horticulture Center for Personal Development has submitted apprenticeship standards to the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training for landscape technician and landscape management technician.

The landscape technician program is a two-year or 4,000-hour program while the landscape management program takes one year or 2,000 hours. Both programs require on-the-job training and 140 hours of classroom training, which is not paid for by the employer.



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### AWARDS

## Groups honor Butler for industry service

Jack Butler, Ph.D., from Colorado State University, was honored for his years of service with a roast by a number of industry groups at the most recent Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Conference.

The Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Association, in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Golf Superintendents, the Professional Lawn care Association of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Sod Growers, surprised Butler with the roast at its annual banquet.

Graduate students, former students and industry colleagues participated in the roast. In addition, the associations presented Butler with a watch and a trip to Hawaii for him and his wife Dianne.

### PEOPLE

## Lawn Institute co-founder dies

Robert W. Schery, Ph.D., died at home in Marysville, Ohio, on March 18th. Schery was founding executive director of The Lawn Institute and a nationally-recognized turf authority.

Schery served as liaison between The Institute and technical specialists at the nation's universities for more than 30 years.

"Bob was a real pioneer," said Eliot Roberts, Ph.D., Schery's successor at The Lawn Institute. "When he came into the turf picture in the 1950s, common-type grasses were in use. Bob Schery was instrumental in orchestrating a shift into the development of proprietary turfseed.

"He was the spark behind making a lot of things happen behind the scenes."

Schery, a Missouri native, received his doctorate from the University of Washington. His books include "A Perfect Lawn" and "Lawn Keeping." Schery also contributed to the "Ency-

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Circle No. 111 on Reader Inquiry Card

# 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.

## SCHERY from page 8

clopeida 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.