

# LETTERS

## Weeds or natives?

To the editors:

I would like to make a comment regarding the article by Carl Kovac in the February 1987 issue of WEEDS TREES & TURF, entitled "The Emerald Neckalce." Mr. Kovac's reference to weeds being allowed to grow in the park system reflects a lack of knowledge on his part regarding native plants. Following his reference to "weeds," he refers to Joe-pye and common milkweed, implying that these are classified as weeds. In reality these plants are part of a native plant community and are, therefore, not weeds at all. Plants which are sold by nurseries and which are introduced from Europe, Asia and other areas of the world are technically weeds when located in natural settings.

Unfortunately, many individuals who are involved in landscape maintenance think of our native plants as weeds. This is unfortunate since our native plants have much to offer and they reflect the true American landscape in contrast to man-made landscapes filled with European and Asian plants. Please share my comments

with Mr. Kovac so that he will become more informed of the natural landscapes.

**Richard Ehrenberg**

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
Whitewater, Wisc.

## On Design

To the editors:

I would like to make a suggestion concerning your new feature on landscape design. The projects designed by landscape designers and installed by landscape contractors need to have a follow-up sequence three to five years after installation. Too many of these projects look at the aesthetic for now without considering physiological conditions and how they may impact on a living plant. In fact, there appear to be many landscape designers without any concept as to how a plant grows. Therefore, award-winning projects should be noted and a follow-up picture requested three to

five years from installation or completion time. A critique as to any change at that time would be appropriate if you publish side-by-side before and after pictures.

I see too many plants fail in locations and/or planting techniques when it is obvious people did not know what they were doing. But it looked good on paper and the first year or two after installation.

**Robert E. Partyka**

ChemLawn Services Corp.  
Columbus, Ohio

## Upside down?

To the editors:

As an avid reader of WEEDS TREES & TURF, let me laud you both on the quality of your magazine and on your decision to change the name to something that more accurately reflects the issues it must address today.

I would appreciate it, however, if you might clear up a little confusion I



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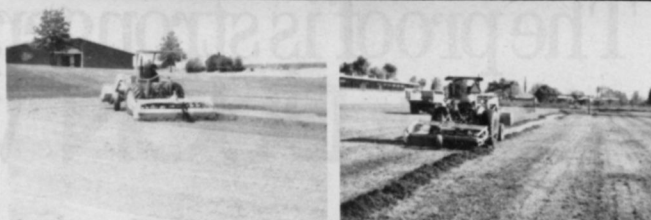
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Circle No. 167 on Reader Inquiry Card

Circle No. 124 on Reader Inquiry Card

have regarding the bit entitled "Damage Dilemma" (March 1987). Am I mistaken, or is the photo for number 10 on page 74 upside down? Everyone I show the picture to agrees that something just doesn't seem right.

Oh well, that is a trivial matter. Please keep up the good work.

**Scott A. Sabol**  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, Mass.

Editor's note: Yes, that photo is upside down.

## Congratulations

To the editors:

Our 23 years with WT&T have experienced many changes in progress and growth not only with the features of your magazine but also in the capabilities of our own company. At times your pages came apart at the seams from handling. My sons used WT&T articles for school projects; my grandsons saved the WT&T listing our company as #2 land-

scape contractor (February, 1987).

We stand and applaud WT&T and all the persons over the last 23 years that produced a quality publication, often quoted, sometimes clipped or saved, rarely disappointing and always anticipated each month. You all did a great job and should be very proud.

With open arms and with unlimited wishes and support for success, we LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT.

**Edmond De Laurentis,**  
De Laurentis Construction Co.  
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

## Hard Knocks

To the editor:

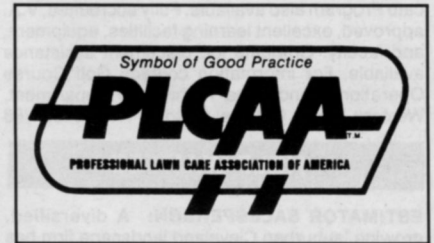
I was very pleased to see the June 1987 issue of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT devoted to athletic field safety.

I must admit I was a little surprised not to see bypass drainage systems mentioned. A total football field renovation and installation of a sand-silt

drainage matrix will produce one of the finest playing surfaces available—bar none. The good news is that such a renovation costs only about half the amount quoted by Dr. Indyk.

Some of the major stadiums using this method of renovation are Comiskey Park, Milwaukee County Stadium and the Memphis Liberty Bowl. But we would rather emphasize the communities which have found out that you don't have to break the budget to have the best: Eugene, Ore.; Schaumburg, Ill.; Huntsville, Ala. and many others.

**William M. Ellis**  
Cambridge Soil Services  
Glenco, Calif.



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