

Fertilizer prices rise. . . .

■ Fertilizer prices have gone up anywhere from five to 10 percent this year, after a two-year fall. A Lawn Care Industry survey of suppliers reveals bulk urea prices have jumped 20 to 30 percent in the last six months, meaning a five to 10 percent increase for finished products, depending on urea content. Raw material bulk prices fell five to eight percent last February through April. This year, they jumped 22 percent in a similar period.

. . . .while LCO pesticide use appears down

■ A trend appears to be developing in the chemical lawn care industry away from the use of pesticides. ChemLawn, the country's largest such company, expects to start using biological insect controls on customers' lawns within two years, a report in *Organic Gardening* claims. ChemLawn scientists are studying nematodes and other biologicals for use against lawn pests.

And Davey Tree & Lawn Beauty, in a press conference Feb. 29 in Cleveland, announced its intent to use considerably fewer pesticides in 1988 (see "Green Industry News").

Architect sees golf growth continuing

■ Landscape architect and golf course designer F. Truitt Rabun, Jr., of Edward Pinckney/Associates, Ltd., agrees with National Golf Foundation figures painting a rosy picture for the future of golf, especially in construction of golf course communities. Golf will grow in relation to residential development in order to increase the value of land, he says, sometimes as much as \$20,000 to \$30,000 per lot.

Also, community leaders, especially in southern metropolitan areas, are calling for more country clubs because existing ones are full. A factor in drawing business to an area is the availability of country club membership for executives. "Community leaders are pulling for new country clubs for these newcomers," Rabun says.

Another trend Rabun sees: a need for more public courses built by private developers, based on demographics and profit potential. Courses will be more suited to new players, retirees and women. He cited quality of tee placement as an example in the case of women. Lower maintenance costs and less management-demanding designs. "The pendulum is swinging," he says. Designs will pay more attention to land form and existing vegetation, and thus be less expensive to maintain.

Rabun spoke at the first Southern Grounds & Turf Maintenance Expo in Myrtle Beach, S.C. in February.



Rabun

LM Editorial Staff



Jerry Roche



Heide Aungst



Jeff Sobul

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jerry Roche, Editor

Heide Aungst, Managing Editor

Jeff Sobul, Associate Editor

Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44130

(216) 243-8100

MARKETING STAFF

Dick Gore, Publisher

Office: 455 E. Paces Ferry Rd.

Suite 324

Atlanta, GA 30305

(404) 233-1817

Jon Miducki, National Sales Manager

Marsha Dover, Midwest Sales Manager

Gloria Cosby, Eastern Sales Manager

Bob Earley, Group Vice President

Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44130

(216) 243-8100

Robert Mierow, W. Coast Representative

Office: 1515 NW 51st Street

Seattle, WA 98107

(206) 783-0549

Tom Greney, Senior Vice-President

Office: 111 East Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60601

(312) 938-2344

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Office: 120 West Second St.

Duluth, MN 55802

(218) 723-9200

David Komitau, Graphics Coordinator

Linda Winick, Promotion Director

Office: 7500 Old Oak Blvd.

Cleveland, OH 44130

(216) 243-8100



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