

SHORT CUTS

Work closely with the client to gain an understanding of the tree's needs. He also believes in charging for a tree survey or inventory (this is a business, after all).

Trees and their caretakers have to deal with a myriad of insects. Nielsen says a healthy plant will go a long way toward reducing the need for major tree repair and pesticide applications: quality plants, not pest control.

ATHLETIC TURF

Artificial turf injuries appear to be on the rise

Artificial turf is hurting athletes, say an overwhelming number of college athletic directors. The athletic directors, from schools in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), cited increased injuries to knees, ankles and elbows as the main reason they preferred natural fields.

Of the 177 who responded, almost 68 percent opposed synthetic surfaces. That included some Division 1A schools which currently have artificial fields. Only 23 percent support artificial turf, while the others are undecided.

BASF Corporation Fibers Division sponsored the survey. Respondents averaged more than 21 years experience in coaching and athletic administration.

More than half of the respondents, 53.1 percent, see a trend back to natural fields.

Comments from respondents characterized artificial surfaces as "too hard," "abrasive," with no give. Besides knee, ankle and elbow injuries, burns and contusions also topped the list.

An athletic director at a Division 1AA school in Illinois agrees "totally with our players and coaches that the injury situation is considerably worse when we play on artificial turf. If the players and coaches have their way, we will soon have all natural fields again."

Several coaches, however, favored synthetic turf. One service academy official said, "The main problem is footwear, not the turf." A Division III administrator said, "Our players learned to fall and run appropriately on the artificial surface."

Despite the controversy, some schools take a pragmatic approach to the matter. "Our coaches want to practice on natural grass," one administrator reported, "but play games on artificial."

For more information on athletic field safety and care, reprints of "Sideline" and "Hard Knocks" from

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WELL-READ... Maria Cinque, horticultural extension agent for Long Island, N.Y., is becoming somewhat famous along the eastern seaboard. Cinque, since last April, has been writing a weekly column in the Sunday editions of *Newsday*. She also writes for the New York editions of the same newspaper. The papers have a combined circulation of more than one million readers. "These columns give the general public a constant in horticultural information," Cinque says.

IMPRESSIVE PRESS... Robert Dedman of the Club Corp. of America recently received national attention, along with William Kubley of Landscapes Unlimited. Dedman, who founded Club Corp., was written up in the Dec. 14th issue of *Forbes* magazine. "Even before it turns profitable, a Dedman club can be a cash machine," *Forbes* said. Kubly, owner of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., received a write-up in *Inc.* magazine for being the 441st fastest-growing entrepreneur in the country. Minors Lawn Care of Fort Worth, Tex. was No. 446 and Suburban Landscape of Davenport, Ia. was No. 447 on *Inc.*'s list of the top 500.

A WORLD RECORD... Briggs & Stratton, the world's leading manufacturer of small gasoline engines, has made the Guinness Book of World Records. The first product ever produced by the company from 1920 to 1923, a buckboard-like car called the Flyer, was named the most inexpensive mass-produced road car in history. The nationally-syndicated television show "Guinness Book of World Records," which was scheduled to air in mid-January, was to highlight the car. The Flyer sold for \$145 to \$225, according to George Thompson III of Briggs & Stratton. Only about 2,000 of the Flyers were manufactured, though.

RESTLESS NATIVES... ANVIL (Association for the use of Native Vegetation in Landscapes) received time on the Voice of America. Roger Lemke of LaFayette Home Nursery near Chicago invited a reporter to see the prairie growing in his yard. "I had to be careful," Lemke says. "I had to make sure I referred to aggressive weeds instead of Eurasian weeds."

GETTING INTO CONDITION... Seed companies no longer clean turfseed. But that doesn't mean you'll see a lot of weeds in the next lawn you seed. To get around (or, is it cooperate with?) the EPA, seed companies now refer to seed cleaning as *conditioning*. But, says Jerry Pepin, Ph.D., of Pickseed West, the seed still meets quality standards.