

Green industry coalition

To the editors:

In your "Outlook" in December, 1987, *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, you commented on the need for a green industry coalition to address potentially adverse issues.

You should know that there is such a coalition that exists in different forms with different players, depending on issues. NAA, PLCAA, The

American Association of Nurserymen, The Associated Landscape Contractors of America, The Golf Course Superintendents and the Professional Grounds Management Society, frequently work together on issues of common interest. We each know when it is time to rally support and when there are issues we need to work separately on. Perhaps we don't

blow our own horns enough on this subject, and there's no question about the fact that we could do more of it.

I think it's a great idea for you to mention it and keep pushing the concept. By doing so, we can only gain support for our individual and collective efforts.

Robert Felix

National Arborists Association
Amherst, N.H.

Lighting up landscapes

To the editors:

Just wanted to tell you and your staff that I liked the article "Tips for lighting up Christmas landscapes" in the December 1987 issue. I have never seen an article on the subject and thought it was a clever idea, offering good tips and information.

Have a good year and keep up the good work!

Dorothy Borland

The Turf Expert
Denver, Colo.

Non-toxic herbicide?

To the editors:

"Non-toxic herbicide is also biodegradable" (Dec. 1987, pg. 55). I am sure this title drew attention from many of your readers on first glance. Before you go out and stock up on your biodegradable vegetation control, you may wish to consider two points:

1) There is no such thing as non-toxic and it is against most Canadian and U.S. regulations to advertise any product as being such. Products are only "relatively non-toxic" as it is impossible to provide experimental evidence that anything is safe; only non-safety can be experimentally demonstrated.

2) The word biodegradable is also a nice advertising slogan describing one of the eight major factors which influence pesticide fate and behavior after contact with the soil, namely microbial degradation. When I think of biodegradable, the first products which come to mind are a relatively common family of chemicals referred to as "phenoxies." For example, MCPA is rapidly degraded by soil microbes to the simple compounds of CO_2 , H_2O and C_{12} and has an average half-life in soil of 14 days. Seedbeds and grass can be replanted as soon after an application of MCPA as with the triglyceride (fatty acid) products being promoted by Safer.

Kent E.M. Groves

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