

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

GOLF COURSES

Wildflowers and mulch blankets cure woes of Evansville Country Club superintendent

The combination of wildflowers and mulch blankets has turned a nuisance area at the Evansville Country Club into an area of blooming colors.

The third tee at the Evansville Country Club is bounded by two steep slopes. The back slope faces a wooded area and is protected by ground cover. The side slope faces an adjacent fairway, in full view of the players. The side slope has been a continual maintenance problem for club superintendent Gary Shetler: too steep to mow, loose soil creating erosion problems.

To improve the area's appearance, a plan was developed to terrace the slope, using rip rap and grass on the flat areas.

Alan Juncker, a sales manager for North American Green, recommended the use of wildflowers and erosion control blankets. Shetler approved with the guarantee that the membership would be pleased with the results.

After preparing the seedbed last March, Juncker distributed a Midwestern wildflower blend covered with a S150 North American Green erosion blanket made of straw mulch with netting on both sides. Within several weeks, the wildflowers began emerging through the blanket cover. By early June, the wildflowers were in full bloom.

Shetler was so pleased with the results that he plans on using the same technique in other parts of the course next year.



After seeding, erosion control blankets are installed.



By June, wildflowers had come through the blanket to full bloom.

LEGISLATION

EPA proposal could hinder landscapers

Proposed worker protection standards for using agricultural pesticides could be burdensome to lawn care companies and landscape management contractors. So says Martha Lindauer, director of communications for the Associated Landscape Contractors of America.

"They would impose a lot of burdensome tasks on the employer," says Lindauer, who has been following progress of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed standards through public hearings.

Here are some of their provisions:

- Each worker must be trained un-

der the provisions of the standard unless the person is a certified commercial or private applicator.

- No worker shall be allowed or directed to wear home pesticide-contaminated clothing.

- Soap and single-use towels and a clean change of clothing shall be made available at each decontamination site.

- No worker is permitted to enter or remain in an area during application unless the worker is involved in the application of the pesticide.

- No pesticide shall be applied so as to contact any worker directly or

through drift.

Each worker shall be informed of the location of all information about pesticides at the workplace. All information shall be displayed in English and in the language of the workers.

Special standards have also been established for workers in nurseries and greenhouses.

For more information the EPA's proposed regulations, Lindauer invites interested parties, members and non-members alike, to call or write ALCA at 405 N. Washington St., Suite 104, Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 241-4004.

SHORTCUTS

TREE CARE

Arborists win battle with OSHA regulation

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has conceded to the National Arborist Association on a proposed "Electrical Safety-Related Work Practices" rule, according to the N.A.A.

The proposed regulation would have made it impossible for any person to enter a tree which was closer than 10 feet to an energized conductor unless that person was a Qualified Line Clearance Tree Trimmer doing work "directly associated" with the transmission and distribution of electricity.

"Basically, what we did was submit written testimony," says N.A.A. executive vice-president Robert Felix. "We made them recognize the fact that a qualified tree worker can work around electrical conductors. Their regulation had included utility tree workers only."

Also, the proposal would have made it possible for different members of a crew to be regulated by different OSHA rules on the same day, or whole crews being subject to one OSHA rule on one job and a different OSHA rule on another.

Under cross-examination by attorney Steven R. Semler, OSHA clarified the points of contention, conceding on the record to each of the concerns that had been presented in the NAA's testimony.

Testimony came from NAA members Gerald Duke, Walter Money and Erik Haupt.

CONFERENCES

Expo seminars are comprehensive

The third annual Landscape Exposition, to be held Oct. 22-24 at the Nashville (Tenn.) Convention Center offers attendees a comprehensive seminar program.

The Landscape Exposition seminars, taught by recognized industry authorities and educators, deal with topics from regulatory issues to management strategies to the most recent technical developments. Titles include:

- Weed management in cen
- continued on page 14*

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...Edgell Communications takes pride in its Cleveland, Ohio, landscape. When the summer drought hit, the grass turned brown in spots, despite irrigation. The situation had Ken Erman and Tom Sprague—like many other landscape managers this year—scratching their heads. However, in late July when rains finally came, the grass finally greened up. One employee, tongue in cheek, asked the pair how they magically brought the turf "back to life." Their answer? "Tricks of the trade," said Sprague. "We prayed a lot," noted Erman.

A DRY IDEA.....Elsewhere in Cleveland, companies were doing special promotions this summer. For instance, if you were the fifth caller to respond to a WGAR-AM radio contest, you won a much-needed yard watering courtesy of the Brunswick branch of ChemLawn. Twice a week the company applied 400 gallons of water on the parched lawns of three listeners as part of the station's "Hoser Patrol" promotion. "I chuckled a bit when they first mentioned the idea, but here we are doing it," said ChemLawn branch manager Jeff Vorndron, who was joined by a station disc jockey to conduct live broadcasts from each site.

JUMBO PLUGS...That's what you get with extra-large hollow coring tines, according to *Parks & Sports Grounds* magazine of London, England. The tines have been satisfactorily tested, the magazine says. The reasons for pulling larger plugs are to (1) allow more effective use of topdressings and (2) remove more thatch.

SAME PRODUCT, NEW NAME...Geomatrix Systems, formerly part of the BASF Fibers Division, has a new name—Akzo Industrial Systems Co.—since being purchased from BASF in May. The company manufactures Enkamat and Armater Geomatrix for erosion control and Enkadrain subsurface drainage matting. Questions regarding Akzo products can be directed to the company at P.O. Box 7249, Asheville, NC 28802; (704) 258-5050.

NO WAY OUT...is what prison officials at an Ohio minimum security prison in Mansfield wanted when they asked David Burroff what type of grass they should plant in and around the facility. Burroff, owner of Exterior Design, Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind., put in a mix of 60 percent Nugget Kentucky bluegrass, 20 percent white clover and 20 percent annual ryegrass. Since the grass outside is mowed only twice a year, officials wanted a turf that wouldn't grow too high and consequently offer an escaped prisoner a place to hide. "There's good logic in that thinking," said Burroff, "but I don't think they'll be able to get out anyway."

Changing public images

■ Golf course superintendents have a bit of a recognition problem, says Gary Mazzeo of the Grantwood Recreation Park in Solon, Ohio. "Superintendents are recognized as greenskeepers or not at all," he comments. "It's a struggle for recognition."

While entertaining, Bill Murray's portrayal of Carl Spagler in the movie "Caddyshack" did little to improve the reputation of most superintendents.

Improving the perception at the high school level is a start, Mazzeo says. He suggests superintendents speak at local career days. Also, he believes supers should offer their expertise to area high schools to improve athletic field conditions. "Superintendents can help cut down injuries and get recognition in the community," he explains.

Mazzeo also stresses the importance of public course supers participating in local superintendents' associations. He feels that public courses are not as well represented at these associations.

AMA reports on pesticides

■ Although studies show many chemicals used in pesticides can cause genetic damage or cancer in animals, only two have been proven to cause cancer in humans, says a recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Except for arsenic and vinyl chloride, there is a great uncertainty about the human cancer-causing potential of hundreds of other pesticidal agents, says the report. Animal and in vitro tests are not reliably predictive of human carcinogenicity, and epidemiological studies often fall short of establishing definite links between chemical exposure and cancer in humans, it says.

The report also notes: "The decision whether to regulate a suspected carcinogen is not uniformly applied by all federal agencies concerned, (but) agencies have been fairly consistent in regulating a substance when it is expected to cause an increase of more than four cases of cancer per 1,000 persons; no regulation is likely if the expected increase is less than one in a million."

Of days to come

■ Jerry Stumbras of Lawn-Boy believes that the commercial segment of the outdoor power equipment industry will grow, despite this summer's drought conditions. Stumbras said at the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's annual board meeting that he expects more consolidations among mower companies and more foreign competition.

John Munn of Wheel Horse, commented at the OPEI meeting that there would be significant component increases being passed on to equipment manufacturers this year. Equipment costs could go up five to 10 percent, perhaps higher.

EXPO from page 11

tipegrass and St. Augustinegrass

- Programming problems in automatic lawn irrigation
- The basics of success
- Recruiting employees for long-term retention
- Why and when to use incentive plans
- Low-cost versus specialty fertilizers
- Developing a marketing plan
- Turf establishment and renovation

Conference fees are \$60 per person per day; attendees may save \$30 by registering for all three days. Complimentary exhibits admission is extended to all conference participants. For more information on either attending or exhibiting at the Landscape Expo, call Becky Lerew or Mary Sue Christoffers at (800) 243-2815. In Connecticut, call (203) 853-0400.

GOLF

Privately-owned public courses slate 7th show

The Golf Course Association, an association for privately-owned public golf courses, will hold its seventh annual conference in Naples, Fla.

The conference will be held at the Registry Resort Hotel Jan. 10-14, 1989. Its theme will be "Put Your Pieces Together," concentrating on customers, employees, family and self.

Highlights include a moonlight cruise dinner in the Gulf of Mexico, a seminar on employee relations conducted by Bill Stevens, roundtable discussions and the Award of Merit Banquet.

For more information, call the GCA at (612) 854-8482 or write to 8030 Cedar Ave., Suite 228, Minneapolis, MN 55425.

CONFERENCES

Short Course slated for early next year

The University of California has scheduled its annual "Short Course in Horticulture" for Jan. 24 to Feb. 23, 1989. The 1989 Short Course offers research-based information on practical aspects of horticulture production, landscape management and problem diagnosis. It is co-sponsored by the California Association of Nurserymen and the Southern California Gardener's Federation.

Sessions will be held in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. However, no cross-overs are allowed and each registrant must choose only one location. Cost is \$25.

Certificates will be awarded at the completion of the fifth session. To be eligible for a certificate, at least four sessions must be attended.

For more information, call Ed McNeill at (818) 798-1715 before Jan. 9, 1989 or write for a registration form to 2492 E. Mountain St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

GOLF

NCA files against IRS regulations

The National Club Association has filed a brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco asking the Court to approve the recent opinion of the U.S. Tax Court for *North Ridge Country Club v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*. The NCA is a trade association serving 1000 private social, athletic and recreational clubs.

This action represents NCA's latest effort in its nine-year struggle to fight the IRS campaign requiring clubs to pay higher taxes. In this case, all 14 members of the Tax Court held that the club had a profit motive for its non-member business. This determination would provide that tax losses can be offset against taxable investment income on such activities.

"The case is unique and important," says NCA executive vice-president Gerard F. Hurley. "The lower court opinion is the first in which a club was held to have a profit motive despite tax losses.

"The case has broad implications in many areas. Today the IRS requires that continuous tax losses preclude trade or business deductions, regardless of the taxpayer's profit motive or the economic benefits to the taxpayer. As a result, these interpretations have been a convenient method of unfairly extracting what we believe to be excessive taxes."

A decision is expected early in 1989.

PESTICIDES

Triumph labelled

Triumph insecticide from Ciba-Geigy has received Special Local Need (24c) labelling by the Environmental Protection Agency for use in eight states.

The states where the new insecticide is allowed for insect control on golf course greens, tees and aprons and sod farms are: Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

CONFERENCES

Palm tree seminar is October 19th

The California Cooperative Extension Service will conduct a seminar on palm tree management October 19 at the Oxnard Community Center.

The extension service notes that many problems have occurred with palms, which have grown in popularity in exterior and interior landscapes.

The one-day seminar will cover plant selection, moving and transporting large palms, date palm use and care, palms in interiorscaping and palm tree diseases.

Registration is limited to 500, and is required by October 1. The \$25 fee includes seminar, lunch, refreshments and certificate of completion.

For information, contact the University of California, Cooperative Extension, 800 S. Victory Ave., Ventura, CA 93009.

RIGHTS OF WAY

Missouri law upholds trail plans

A U.S. District Court in Missouri has upheld the constitutionality of a federal law that preserves abandoned railroad corridors for possible future rail use. The law also permits them to be used as public trails in the interim.

The decision gives the state the green light to begin development of what could become the nation's longest and most spectacular rail-trail, a 200-mile route along the Missouri River from the outskirts of St. Louis to Sedalia.

The lawsuit was brought in 1986 by a group of farmers who lived near the line and who claimed the corridor reverted to them when rail service ended. However, Judge George F. Gunn, Jr., upheld the rails-to-trails law, stating the "Congress acted rationally in enacting the law by electing to postpone railroad abandonments and to encourage interim trail use so as to further its railbanking purpose."

MANAGEMENT

Productivity relies on a happy employee

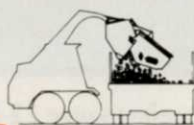
Recognizing the signs of growing distaste for a job will help to head off potential problems with an employee or even the boss down the road.

According to Doug Swenson, a Dale Carnegie lecturer, the employee goes through four phases of attitude: excitement, frustration,



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looking and recommitment.

The first stage usually lasts the first three to six months of a new job, that excitement of a new challenge, new goals. "This excitement will carry the employee through adversity," Swenson says.

The second phase, frustration, has six sub-phases: shock at finding the job isn't going to be so easy or perfect; denial that the problem lies within; fear of total failure; outward anger; justification of what is happening with the job; and finally acceptance of the circumstances and a lowering of goals.

What results from this frustration stage, if it is not headed off, is the looking phase: for a new job, a search for that excitement.

Swenson says that the excitement period decreases in duration for each new job. He calls this the negative cycle. A new job won't make things better for any length of time.

But he adds that the negative cycle can be prevented by recognizing the signs of the anger sub-phase. "Recognize the anger stage and go straight to the fourth phase from there," Swenson advises.

The recommitment phase involves three stages, beginning with a re-evaluation of why you took the job in the first place. After that, set some immediate goals that will inject some excitement

and boost confidence quickly. Finally, get an outside opinion on whether you are right for the job or the job is right for you, and if you can do the job well. Often, the outside opinion is a key factor. The boss or a fellow employee can provide that opinion.

"Going through the positive cycle extends the excitement period each time," Swenson says. If an employee is showing this anger, sit him or her down and talk it out. It may save time and money down the road.

Swenson spoke at the third North Central Turf Grass Association conference in Bismark, N.D..

GOLF

Consistent topdressing improves performance

Keeping the same topdressing media over a period of years will improve the performance of topdressing and reduce or avoid other problems, notes Jim Snow, director of the Northeast region of the USGA Green Section.

The most serious potential problem is the chance of layering. When particle size or media is changed, and changed often, layering is nearly a given. "Fine particles on top of coarse ones cause a perched water table," Snow says. "Keep the same particle size and blend."

Snow outlined benefits and concerns of sand topdressing in relation to high sand mixes and soil. Compared with high sand mixes, straight sand is easier to apply when wet, more readily available and costs less, Snow says.

He also brought up some concerns with sand as compared with soil in addition to layering. Sand has lower microbial action, which helps to break down thatch. Greens can become hydrophobic because of sand's high percolation rate, and greens can lose color rapidly after fertilizer applications. Spike and ball marks last longer and bedknife wear increases.

Most often, Snow explains, topdressing fails because the wrong size particle or too much sand is used. Also, when greens aren't aerated, the layering problem compounds. Snow says to aerate at least twice annually. Adjust other management programs along with aeration, he says. He recommends light and frequent topdressing applications and more frequent but light fertilizer applications with more phosphorous and potassium.

When choosing a sand topdressing, Snow says to consider physical properties such as particle size and thus porosity and infiltration rate, bulk density and water retention.

Snow spoke at the GCSAA Conference in Houston. **LM**