



Food for thought

As your stomach cells absorb the day's lunch, here are some interesting observations that should get your brain cells going, too.

● **Dr. Gerald Kidder** of the University of Florida believes that lawn and tree care companies should consider purchasing shredders. Why? "Instead of throwing away tree debris (leaves, pine needles, prunings, etc.), people can run that stuff through the chipper/shredder and produce decorative mulch," Kidder kids not. "I hope lawn care services will start using this technology and beautify the yards they serve with material they now throw away."

(which makes up nearly 20 percent of the state's municipal solid waste) will no longer be allowed in Florida landfills beginning in January, 1992. This is a trend which may touch landscapers in other parts of the country, especially highly-populated areas in states like New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Something to think about.

● The total herbicide market in the U.S. has leveled off, according to Kline & Company, an independent research company based in Fairfield, N.J. In a press release titled "Intense Competition and Mounting Environmental Concerns Ahead for U.S. Herbicide Suppliers," Kline noted that the U.S. herbicide market will increase 1 to 2 percent annually until the year 2000.

Non-crop herbicides, such as those in the turf/ornamental market, will experience the most rapid growth, the report said.

"Kline expects groundwater contamination will be the most critical environmental issue facing the industry in the 1990s," the press release noted. (That's the ag industry, not the landscape industry, I might note. Although groundwater concerns rank high in the agricultural community, they have not yet fully reached the landscape "community.")

So growth of herbicide use in the U.S. appears to be on "hold." Something to think about.

● Our congratulations to **Dr. Roy L. Goss** on his retirement from Washington State University. And another round of applause to him for establishing the Roy L. Goss Turfgrass Endowment Fund at his former school. Dr. Goss says that he will match each \$15 donated with \$1 of his own (with a ceiling of \$10,000) for the next 12 months.

This is a noble and welcome gesture on Dr. Goss's part. He is to be commended.

Contributions may be mailed to 223 Hulbert Hall, W.S.U., Pullman, WA 99164. Monies collected will be used to support turfgrass research education and scholarships, according to development officer **Rich Swantz**.

Something to think about...until next month.

Jerry Roche, editor

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