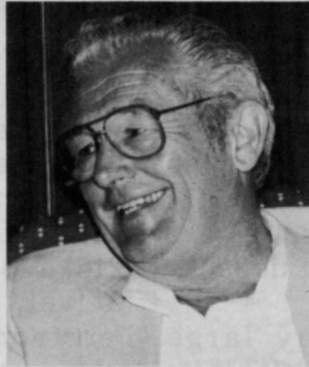


Meter, Ia.

At the opening ceremonies, *Lawn Care Industry* magazine publisher Jon Miducki presented its "Man of the Year" award to James I. FitzGibbon, CEO of Lesco, Inc., in Rocky River, Ohio.

"Many names crossed our minds in trying to decide what one person made the most significant contribution to the industry," Miducki said. "(We found) one person who consistently went the extra mile. FitzGibbon had the foresight to recognize lawn care as a separate industry from landscape, and has been instrumental in developing marketing programs and distribution systems to benefit the LCO."



**Lawn Care Industry magazine "Man of the Year" James I. FitzGibbon.**

The lengthy but interesting opening session also featured a reunion of some of the organization's 36 founding members, who gathered in Fort Mitchell, Ky. on June 14, 1979. □

## ORGANIZATIONS

### REAP scientists offer certification

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Formation of a new organization, the Registry of Environmental and Agricultural Professionals (REAP), has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Society of Agronomy.

REAP will provide standards and certification for professionals working on "agricultural, urban, public health and environmental services."

To join REAP, a society or organization will need to develop its own registry and certification program for members. Working to-

gether, REAP societies will benefit by using the same offices, staff and other resources.

"REAP represents a strong move in the right direction to pull a number of disciplines and organizations together so they can mutually benefit," says Dr. Ricks Pluenneke, a plant scientist from Fort Worth, Texas. "Many of us work with properties where we deal not with just one aspect but the whole landscape package."

Pluenneke believes that certification is becoming more important, and that better communication between scientists with different specialties and with practicing professionals is imperative.

"In modern agriculture, unquestionably the biggest problem facing us now is our inability to adequately communicate with the public," says Pluenneke. "we need to get our act together, and REAP will help us with that as it grows."



**Pluenneke**

Pluenneke was named chairman of the Soil & Plant Science Division, or Division A-8. For the sub-division for urban professionals, he has enlisted the services of Dr. Jim McAfee of ChemLawn Corp.

Standards and certification requirements would be the responsibility of each member society with approval of REAP directors.

*continued on page 14*

## LEGISLATION

### Drug testing is here, now, for lawn, landscape drivers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Drivers of trucks carrying commonly-used lawn care chemicals will be required to be tested for drugs under new federal regulations that begin this month.

Lawn and landscape companies which employ 50 or more drivers must comply by Dec. 21 with new sections of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. Those with fewer than 50 drivers have until Dec. 21, 1990 to begin a drug testing program.

"The problem with these rules is enforcement," says Paul Skorupa, assistant director of the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation.

"People could probably get away with it (failure to do drug tests) for years and years," he says, just as they now skirt DOT

regulations on packaging and shipping hazardous materials.

However, enforcement is likely to occur if a vehicle is involved in a traffic accident. The U.S. Department of Transportation may then find cause to audit the company headquarters and the entire operation, Skorupa warns.

A number of consulting firms will provide drug testing along with the required notification and documentation.

Drivers are to be tested for the presence of marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines and phencyclidine (PCP).

If test results indicate that a driver has used drugs, the new rules do not mandate that the person be fired. Each company, though, must have a written policy on how such an offense would be dealt with. □

## GOLF

### Groundwater may remain nitrate-free

ITHACA, N.Y. — With good management practices, golf courses can protect groundwater from nitrate contamination, according to a recent study by Dr. Martin Petrovic of Cornell University.

Petrovic recommends applying frequent, light rates of nitrogen, or using slow-release nitrogen resources, even though they may be more costly. Superintendents also should avoid fertilizing when turfgrass is naturally slow growing, especially in cool weather.

Managers, Petrovic adds, should conservatively irrigate the golf course to both save water and reduce leaching. They also can reduce the scope of "heavily-managed" areas and use fewer energy-demanding plants where possible.

Petrovic adds that research on greens-type sites (high sand content) does not support the conclusion that golf courses are prone to heavy nitrate leaching, especially with today's trend toward lower nitrogen rates and slow-release sources. □

## Correction

The chart accompanying our October seed report failed to list Pickseed's Crossfire and Shortstop as dwarf tall fescues. Also, Mustang is a Pickseed variety, not a Turf-Seed variety, as was listed.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT apologizes for the errors. □