

RANSOMES from page 11
Cushman."

Manufacturing and marketing of Cushman products will continue to operate out of Lincoln, Neb. Stuart Rafos, president of Cushman, says the sale aligns Cushman with a business partner that is close to its core business. Rafos also notes that Ransomes has the international marketing expertise and organization to substantially extend Cushman's growing international business and enhance its position in the

domestic market.

Rafos believes Cushman's annual sales of \$100 million will double in the near future. The company is already making plans for increased production facilities.

Under the agreement, Cushman's management team and dealer network in the U.S. and Canada will retain the status quo.

It's not the same with Ransomes' "Turf Renovation" line of equipment, purchased from Salsco Inc. for a reported \$2 million.

Those products—which include walk-behind, tow and riding core aerators; a slicer/seeders; a walk-behind dethatcher; self-propelled drop spreaders; tailgate and towed truck loaders and a walk-behind leaf blower—will now be marketed through Ransomes dealers.

Despite the sale, Salsco plans to remain in the turf field. President Sal Rizzo says the company will introduce new products at the upcoming PLCAA show next month. □

TURFGRASS

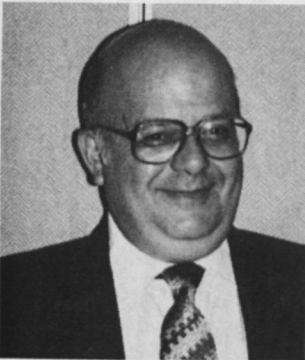
Pre-grown grass to enter the U.S.

ESSONE, France — A new pre-grown grass said to be weed- and disease-resistant is being marketed in the U.S. by France's Darbonne Corp.

According to press reports, Minute Grass is more flexible and durable than sod grown in soil, and is said to remain green year-round.

Minute Grass uses a technology that involves mixing a customer's choice of grass seed with bark containing natural resins. The mix is then spread mechanically over a perforated micro-plastic film. Because Minute Grass is grown densely above the surface, it is impervious to weed and other impurities, according to Darbonne Corp. Minute Grass can be grown on tile, concrete, sloped hillsides, balconies and patios. Darbonne reports that it is three times lighter than sod, three times more prolific in growing season and can be stored under 29°F refrigeration for up to six months.

For more information on Minute Grass, contact Darbonne Corp. at: 6, BD, Joffry, Milly La Foret, Essone, France 91490. □



Bob Felix: dissatisfied with OSHA's Vertical Standard

TREES

NAA is set to battle OSHA's regulation in Washington soon

Members urged to support NAA

AMHERST, N.H. — The National Arborist Association is preparing to meet with representatives of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in Washington next month to challenge OSHA's proposed Vertical Standard regulation.

The NAA will give testimony at public hearings in Washington on Nov. 28 and in California Dec. 12.

By late August, more than 75 firms had expressed dissatisfaction to the regulation with OSHA, according to NAA executive vice president Bob Felix.

The regulation, OSHA Proposed Sec. 1910.269 Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Standard, "is a very important matter for the entire tree care industry," says Felix.

According to the NAA, undesirable aspects of the regulation include:

- barring line clearance tree contractors from performing storm work;

- requiring all crews of two or more employees that work on a tree any branch of which is within 10 feet of a power line to have at least two crew members trained in CPR;

- allowing only a line

clearance tree trimmer to do work on a tree that has a branch within 10 feet of a conductor;

- requiring all tree trimmers working trees proximate to overhead conductors to be tied into the tree once they reached four feet above ground; and

- requiring a chipper to be treated as energized if "it is possible" that the truck boom can be brought within 10 feet of an overhead line.

NAA members are urged to support the organization in its upcoming efforts. Write to the NAA at The Meeting Place Mall, Route 101, P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NH 03031-1094; (603) 673-3311. □

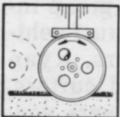
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Right Angle Blade

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