

tion needed to pinpoint pests in time and location.

"Contrary to popular belief," says Raupp, "pests are not everywhere all the time."

And don't discount the presence of pests during the winter, says Raupp, who encourages companies to visit home sites once or twice during winter months to monitor insect presence. □



Heiny extolls virtues of aerification equipment.

Fertilization, mowing and water are keys to quality

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. — "You can do more with turf in terms of appearance easier and quicker than any other part of the project," says Dan Heiny, owner of Allseasons Landscape. "Irrigation, fertilization and mowing are the keys."

Heiny offered tips to fellow landscapers at a recent show. Here are excerpts:

- Always mow dry ground. Be sure the lawn is not watered the day prior to mowing. Also, never mow twice in the same direction.
- Fertilize every month with a uniform supply of fertilizer.
- Don't use string trimmers around trees. If customers insist on grass abutting trees, tell them it's risky. Instead, use a hoe, shovel or handpick to make a six-inch dirt barrier around the tree. And be sure not to mow too close to

the tree.

● Aerify regularly. "It'll make you look like a real whiz," Heiny says. "An aerifier is one of the best machines you can use." Afterwards, water to break up the plugs, then mow.

● Test soil moisture regularly.

● Check drainage regularly, especially on rainy days.

● Clear weeds in the walkways. "It's something that gives the extra little detail to a project," he says.

● Check for tree roots in the asphalt. If unchecked, they will eventually break the asphalt and you could be held liable.

● Specify snail and gopher control. These are time-consuming jobs, so the contractor should not be responsible unless they are specifically stated in the contract. □

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ular IPM techniques.

Other perceptions of Florida's lawn and landscape professionals were judged by the survey. Some of the perceptions:

- regulations concerning pesticides used in the urban landscape;
- safety practices;
- the cost of pesticides;
- the number of insects believed to becoming resistant to commonly-used

pesticides; and

● public awareness about alternative types of pest control, including IPM.

The survey has caused the Florida Cooperative Extension to take action.

"A media campaign has been initiated," Martinkovic reveals. "It is aimed at increasing awareness of urban landscape IPM, since PCOs perceive the public as not aware of these practices." □

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