

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT MINI-SURVEY

Please fax or mail your answers to the questions below to LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT before August 1st. We'll compile the results and publish the statistics in our October issue.

(Circle one answer only)

1. Business at my landscape company or activity on my course or recreational facility was (UP—DOWN—THE SAME) in 1991 compared to 1990.
2. I routinely plan my organization's activities ahead by (ONE DAY—ONE WEEK—ONE MONTH—THREE MONTHS—SIX MONTHS—ONE YEAR).
3. This year, I've planted (MORE—LESS—THE SAME AMOUNT OF) turfseed than I did last year.
4. I (DO—DO NOT) keep all my employees on staff all 12 months of the year.
5. I (WILL—WILL NOT) travel outside my home state for a vacation between now and next spring.

If you would like to be contacted by the magazine's staff to further talk about any of the points made above, fill in the space below.

Name _____
Organization _____
Business phone (____) _____

Thank you, the editors.

Mail form to: LM, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130
or fax form to: (216) 891-2675.

RESEARCH

Landfill panic spurs larger clipping study

KUTZTOWN, Pa.—One company's mulching mower research has been expanded, in light of what some call a "landfill crisis."

Garden Way, Inc., of Troy, N.Y. has teamed up with the Rodale Institute Research Center and *Organic Gardening* magazine to determine whether a Bolens mulching mower is more beneficial for turf than conventional walk-behinds equipped with bags.

In the previous two years, two similarly sized grass plots were tested: one cut with a Bolens walk-behind mulcher, the other with a conventional walk-behind.

"We have expanded the program each of the last three years," says Dr. Terry M. Schettini, "because the disposal of grass clippings

has become a major environmental concern for communities all across the country. Our observations continue to show that mulching mowers offer a very viable and effective solution.

"We found that a mulching mower can return nearly 5,500 pounds of grass clippings to the soil and eliminate up to 465 bags of clippings each summer when used to cut a typical half-acre lawn," says Schettini.

He is the horticultural coordinator at the Rodale Institute.

Mark Herbert, a senior horticulturist for Garden Way, says he hopes that the mulching process will minimize the impact of summer lawn burnout.

"Since grass clippings are over 90 percent water," he said, "returning them to

your lawn can help reduce the damage caused by hot and dry summer weather conditions."

The study also utilizes soil sampling.

Bolens is a subsidiary of Garden Way. Other companies have begun to market mulching mowers, including Toro and John Deere. □

ASSOCIATIONS

Independent distributors form cooperative group

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Independent Turf and Ornamental Distributors Association (ITODA), with 29 members from across the U.S., is serving the green industry in a unique way.

Headquartered here, the association's members "are dedicated to the principals of developing and maintaining the highest levels of marketing stewardship, training and developing quality sales personnel." ITODA also seeks to provide product users with educational and technical

CORRECTION

Ransomes America Inc. was inadvertently omitted from our April article on mid-sized mowers. For detailed information on Ransomes' newest hydrostatic line of mowers, see the product announcement on page 56.

support.

"It is our desire to offer the opportunities of membership to as many companies who qualify as independent distributors serving this industry," says J. Herbert Lea, president.

ITODA members meet at least twice each year to discuss industry issues related to product and service distribution. The group's second annual conference will be held in Hilton Head, S.C., Oct. 23-27. Call (301) 899-3535 or (217) 352-0591 for information. □