

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

EQUIPMENT

Cornell U. research proves mulch mowers' superiority

ITHACA, N.Y. — Mulching mowers yield healthier lawns and their use should be a standard practice throughout the turfgrass industry, Cornell University's Dr. Martin Petrovic says.

"The whole industry should be using mulching mowers," he says. "A mulched lawn always looks better than a non-mulched lawn because you have healthier turf when returning clippings as added nutrients."

Petrovic, associate professor of turfgrass science,

cites an earlier Michigan State University study which showed that mulching produces generally healthier and greener lawns both because of added nutrients and allowance for evaporation at the soil level without thatch buildup.

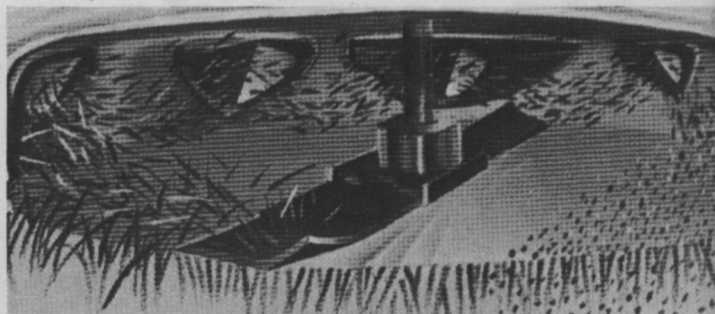
The study also found mulch particles decompose and are absorbed by the grass root system within 14 days.

Mulching also can reduce nitrogen fertilizer needs by 30 percent.

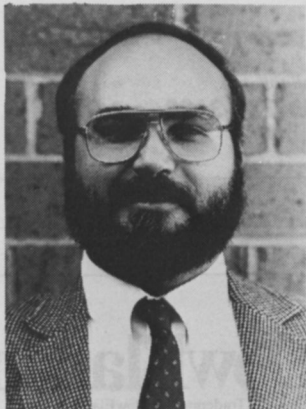
Petrovic's remarks came at a recent seminar in Troy, N.Y. at the headquarters of Garden Way, Inc., which manufactures Troy-Bilt and Bolens tillers, mulching mowers, chipper-shredders and outdoor power equipment.

The company says mulching mowers are gaining support from agronomists and turfgrass experts.

For more information on current overall trends in mowing equipment, refer to the article beginning on page 38 of this issue. □



Mulching mowers like Toro's patented Recycler (shown above) chop grass leaf blades into fine pieces that don't ordinarily 'clump,' leaving clean, well-groomed lawns.



Petrovic: Mulching can reduce N requirements.

RISE names 1st director

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Allen James has been named executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), an organization recently formed to address the issues affecting the \$1.3 billion specialty pesticides industry.

"James brings considerable management experience and broad knowledge of the industry to this important environmental position," say David Duncan and Jay Vroom. Dr. Duncan of Monsanto was search committee chair; Vroom is president of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association.

One of the main functions of RISE is to explain the benefits associated with proper use of pesticides, including benefits to the public health. Membership is composed of manufacturers, formulators and distributors of specialty pesticides; associations, media, academia and equipment manufacturers. □