



Gray: State associations need financial backing.



Grooms: Better understanding than outsiders.

already."

Gray says that, generally, once town leaders hear the advice and concerns of the professional applicators, they either drop the ordinance idea or write it to be practical.

Gray stresses the importance of awareness and support for association activity.

"We're asking (association) members to watch the newspapers and attend town meetings to keep track of any indication that there's going to be activity to restrict pesticides significantly. If they find out, notify us immediately."

Gray says the state lawn or landscaper associations need all the help they can get, both informationally and financially.



Oklahoma: Although the city of Edmond is the only Oklahoma town we know of operating under local pesticide regs, Brad Johnson, president of Green Up! in Tulsa is playing it smart from a public relations point-of-view: he advises do-it-yourselfers on proper lawn care via a weekly AM-band radio program.

Although Johnson admits to receiving a few calls on the heels of the latest 2,4-D report, he says the anti-pesticide feeling in Tulsa is "nothing like it is on the East Coast."

He credits the lack of public worry to the agricultural state's dependence on disease- and insect-free crops.

To the callers who did question the effect of 2,4-D on dogs, Johnson says he explains that the product has been exhaustively researched, has been in use for 40 years, and has the blessing of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Though notification is not a mandate in Tulsa, Johnson takes the initiative and calls neighbors of customers beforehand, just to do what he thinks is right and fair.



Iowa: Since becoming communications point-man for the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association (IPLCA) about two years ago, Mike Grooms has had plenty to keep him busy. The state is full of activists out to ban or limit pesticide use, but the association has proven itself capable of banding together to bring about fair and practical change, or at the least, a continuance of a workable status quo.

In February of this year, the IPLCA rallied its membership to attend a critical public hearing on sign regulations. The opposition wanted 12-inch signs; IPLCA wanted to stay with the 4-by-5-inch size.

"Letters of support were written by pesticide user groups," remembers Grooms, including structural pest control operators. "We had 18 members of the association speak publicly versus three people

from environmental groups.

"From that standpoint, I think we can muster a public support policy. That is probably the most critical."

In January, about 70 state legislators will be invited to attend the association's second annual legislative reception. Grooms says it's the perfect time for user groups to tell their story.

"Lawn care operators, sod producers, superintendents, people who make their living in the industry will invite state legislators to dinner. We get to know them and give them a chance to gain a better understanding of what we do in Iowa, not only to earn our living, but also with a concern for environmental issues.

"I think we have a better understanding of our role in turfgrass and the environment (than do outside activists)," says Grooms, who predicts that even if some legislators show up just for a free meal, many will keep an open mind.

The Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns is a new coalition of urban and rural pesticide users.

"We feel we would be best regulated on the state level rather than in 900 Iowa towns," says coalition director Mona Bond.

According to Bond, 98 percent of all pesticides applied in Iowa are in the ag sector.

The Iowa alliance, like RISE, is not concerned with regulating do-it-yourselfers.

"At his point," says Bond, "I don't feel it would be in our best interest to go after the homeowners. Home rule is very important, and individual freedoms are sacred."

—Terry McIver

LM REPORTS

The art—and science—of snow blowing

Snow blowers and throwers—in walk-behind, rider and tractor attachment models—easily cast aside what Old Man Winter casts your way.

■ Snow throwers, and the ability to attack the white stuff with gusto, can add a winter service dimension for landscapers and LCOs, who must also enlist 1/2- to 8-foot plows to tackle and satisfy commercial accounts. And snow removal as an auxiliary service needs careful consideration beforehand to insure profitability.

Like all powered equipment, the starting rule is to fit the right machine with the task at hand. Over- or under-powered



Cushman Hansen

snow blowers are of little value. The message: shop around to compare features, operating specifics and cost. Decide what you're seeking to accomplish and purchase accordingly.

Snow blowers and throwers come in

SNOW REMOVAL: LOTS TO CHOOSE FROM

LISTED BELOW ARE SELECTED MODELS FROM SOME OF THE INDUSTRY'S MAJOR MANUFACTURERS OF SNOWBLOWERS OR SNOWTHROWERS. COMPANIES LISTED BASED ON RESPONSE TO A LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION REQUEST.

Company	Model	Walk/ride/ attach	Clearing swath	Chute rotation	Speeds forward/rev.	Special features	Circle No.
Bolens	5210	walk-behind	21"	n/a	3/1	Tecumseh Snow King engine	300
J.I. Case	Angle blade	attachment	66"-72"	n/a	n/a	Fits 1835C, 18408, 1845C Uni-loaders	301
Cushman	Hansen snowblower	attachment	50"	Auger speed 237 rpm	n/a	Electric chute control	302
John Deere	TRS32	walk-behind	32"	220 degrees	6/2	10 hp, 4-cycle engine	303
Excell	V-Blade	attachment	48"	n/a	n/a	11 gauge welded steel	304
Grasshopper	412	attachment	48"	200 degrees	n/a	Fits Grasshopper 600/700 mowers	305
Honda	HS828	walk-behind	28"	210 degrees	variable	8 hp, 4-cycle engine	306
Kubota	B2586	broom attachment	47"-60"	2-way angle	n/a	Wire or wire/poly bristles	307
Ransomes	Jaguar 103044	attachment	50"	Electric auger: 14"/175 rpm	2-stage	PTO shaft drive	308
Olathe	150	attachment	52"	180 degrees	n/a	Fits Toro 300/220D tractors	309
Snapper	10302	walk-behind	30"	230 degrees	6/1	10hp, 4-cycle engine	310
Toro	1132	walk-behind	32"	n/a	4/2	4-cycle 11 hp Briggs & Stratton engine	311
Troy-Bilt	5hp	walk-behind	n/a	220 degrees	3/1	13" auger	312
Walker	SB6670	attachment	42"	228 degrees	n/a	Soft cab, adjustable skid shoes	313

Source: LM survey



Kubota attachments

either one- or two-stage models. Both are usually adequate to clear off tighter spaces such as walkways, ramps, patios and modest-sized driveways, but the two-step models are stronger workhorses which perform better in larger areas.

- One-stage models (3 to 4 hp) collect snow by turning augers which then funnel the material to the chute and spout, blowing or throwing the material upward and outward.

- Two-stage models can be equipped with a high-speed impelling system as well as augers to add power to casting the snow outward, sometimes as far as 30 feet. In two-stage models, the auger generally



Walker sweeper

turns slower.

Snow blowers and throwers can clear up ice, too, if worked at a slower speed. Gravel surfaces can be easily cleaned as well, particularly if the skids can be adjusted to about 1-1/2 inches above ground level to avoid launching stones.

At least one consumer rating guide also recommends self-propelled models—nearly all now marketed—in the larger walk-behinds (5 to 10 hp). A reverse gear also eases operation. A high-speed/low-speed transmission combination provides the best versatility. Limited-slip differential gearing enhances traction.

An electric starter is a good option,



Grasshopper Model 412



Deere TRX24, TRX26



Ransomes Jaguar 4000



Excel 60" dozer



Olathe Model 150

although many engines have been especially designed for starting in cold conditions. Primer bulbs and other devices for easier manual starting are available.

Consumer Guide, a product ratings publication, also has prepared tips for using and maintaining snow throwers.

Among CG's suggestions:

- Keep the fuel tank filled with fresh fuel starting in the fall. Topping off the tank helps to fend off moisture condensa-

tion during times of temperature changes.

- Thoroughly check engine oil levels, including the gearbox, and follow manufacturer's instructions for oil types and proper levels. Change the oil at the end of the season, readying it for the next season.

- Wax the unit's chute and spout. This makes it easier for snow and ice to move along the passage, improving performance.

- Store the unit in an area that is the

same temperature as outside. If stored in a heated space, allow the snow blower to cool to the outside temperature before using it. This practice eases the problem of snow melting onto the surface of the unit itself. The melted snow then can ice up, leading to clogging.

- Add tire chains to improve traction, particularly on larger units. Cost: usually around \$35.

—Jack Simonds

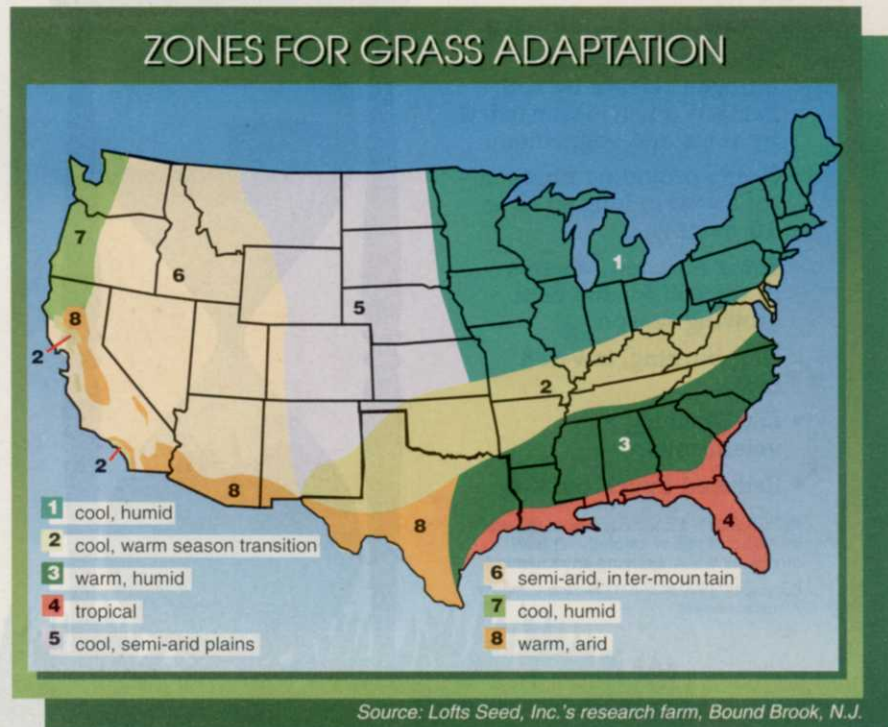
Ornamental grasses—for the bold

Ornamental grasses are growing in popularity as an alternative to flowering shrubs and other flowering perennials.

■ Tall grasses, rushes and sedges can easily and strikingly augment all landscape settings, says nurseryman Kurt Bluemel, a leading marketer, researcher and cheerleader for decorative (ornamental) grasses.

Shown here is a sampling of ornamental grasses adaptable to eight climatic regions of the U.S. It's a small sample; Kurt Bluemel, Inc. alone markets more than 120 varieties and searches worldwide for others to complement its 600 grasses now under research at the firm's Baldwin, Md., facility.

"If you stop and look, you can see how beautiful ornamental grasses are, how light affects their beauty. There are so many virtues that can be listed," says Bluemel. Ornamental grasses are growing in popularity as an alternative to flowering shrubs and other flowering perennials. Any long-stemmed grass that can be used as a substitute in these instances provides a good working definition of an ornamental grass, Bluemel says.



"Designing grasses come into first place for someone with a little more progressive thinking or someone thinking about cost effectiveness," says Bluemel. The varieties grow faster, require less maintenance and are harder in the face of disease, insect infestation and drought,

when compared with ornamental shrubs, Bluemel claims.

"The old guard," says the veteran nurseryman, "is deeply ingrained in round and cylindrical shapes. This conceals what this country has to offer."

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