

# GREEN INDUSTRY SHOWCASE

## Pre- and post-emergence nutsedge control

One of the most damaging landscape weeds is nutsedge. Nutsedge is difficult to control because it is common and very hardy. Nutsedge may lie dormant for years and then suddenly overtake a landscape.

Nutsedge reproduces by means of nutlets. Dr. Elton Smith, landscape and horticulture extension specialist at Ohio State University says nutlet dormancy is hard to predict. "That makes control difficult, because you never know where or when nutsedge will pop up," says Smith.

Smith prefers pre-emergence herbicides for most landscape situations. "With ornamentals already planted," advises Smith, "It probably makes more sense to use a pre-emergence product because it won't damage the plants you want to keep."

To remove nutsedge by hand, the entire plant must be removed. But that takes time—time many landscape companies don't have.

Joe Angel, a landscape project manager for Budd Services in Winston-Salem, N.C., often confronts nutsedge on large corporate properties.

Angel encountered a nutsedge problem on the Ciba-Geigy headquarters in Greensboro, N.C. He tried Ciba-Geigy's Pennant herbicide, which he found cut his crew's weeding time by 60 to 70 percent.

Post-emergence products are also an answer. Smith says Roundup and Basagran T/O are two that work, but they are most



Pre-emergence applications gives ornamentals a fighting chance against weeds.

effective if applied when weeds are young.

"You should be extremely careful that these products don't get too close to desirable ornamentals," warns Smith.

Steve Hellwege, spray division manager at Top Care Lawn Service in St. Louis, Mo., prefers pre-emergence control. "It gives ornamentals a fighting chance

against the weeds, which compete for light, space and nutrients, and it cuts down on our labor because we minimize our hand-weeding," explains Hellwege. "We don't have to worry about weeds popping up in between property visits when we use pre-emergence herbicides."

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## SHOWCASE PRODUCT REVIEW

### Tractor serves as backhoe, loader

Kubota Tractor Corporation's new B-20 tractor is an industrial strength compact tractor that can be equipped with a full-scale backhoe and loader.

Powered by a 20-hp engine, the B-20



was specifically designed to meet the rigorous demands of front loader, backhoe, trencher and box scraper work and yet retain the versatility and maneuverability found in a compact tractor.

With its Kubota-made, liquid-cooled 3-cylinder diesel engine, the B20 features hydrostatic transmission, and standard