

O.M. Scott bidding to be top player in municipal yard-waste recycling

■ Green industry professionals will benefit from O.M. Scott & Sons Company's drive to be the nation's municipal yard-waste recycling leader.

That company opened its 11th yard waste facility in mid-October, this one at its company headquarters in Marysville, Ohio. This site, like the others, is accepting lawn and landscape wastes. The disposal costs are significantly cheaper than at landfills, assuming the landfills still accept such material, claims a company official.

Other Scotts' sites are located in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Virginia.

The newest Ohio site, nearly 22 acres, will process 50,000 tons of Franklin County grass clippings, leaves and brush each year. That's about one quarter of all yard wastes in the metropolitan Columbus area.

This particular facility is operated under contract to the Franklin County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority.

Here's how it works: yard waste from golf courses, city and village work crews, landscapers, tree companies, utility companies and lawn care professionals is taken to one of five transfer sites. Then the regional



The Wildcat Turner allows air to circulate through developing compost at the Scotts/Hyponex site in central Ohio.

authority transports the wastes from these collection areas to the Scotts' site.

At other compost locations, the material—either loose or in recyclable paper bags—is brought directly to the site.

"We are totally recycling this material," George Martin, manager of composting for Scotts/Hyponex, tells *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine. "We're taking something that was previously considered waste and disposed of in landfills, and we're recycling it and using it."

Scott's uses the compost resulting from the recycling operations as an ingredient in its Hyponex soil conditioners and top soils, says Martin. In addition to Hyponex bag products, the company also did about \$7 million in bulk compost sales. (Overall, the Hyponex organic product line reportedly

accounted for about \$130 million of O.M. Scott & Sons' \$380 million in sales last year.

Martin says ever-tightening landfill regulations are driving the yard-waste/compost issue. Concurrently, some communities that had started composting services are discovering that they haven't the money nor the expertise to operate them. They're looking to private industry for help.

Backyard composting by homeowners may grow, but it's unlikely—because of the effort required to do it correctly—to become widespread, believes Martin and other compost authorities.

Martin says green industry professionals benefit from the Scotts/Hyponex facilities because yard wastes can be disposed of there far more cheaply than at landfills.

—Ron Hall

Maryland offers video training

■ Money can't buy happiness, but \$120 can buy a pretty good start on your pesticide applicator training program.

That's the cost of a six-part video series that businesses can use to help train non-certified employees who handle and apply pesticides. The Cooperative Extension Service, Maryland Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, is offering the series which was funded in part by a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We developed this series in response to the needs of employers," says Amy E. Brown, Extension pesticide education coordinator. "The videos offer a convenient, inexpensive alternative to developing and conducting a training seminar every time new workers are hired."

Topics covered include:

Module 1: Pesticide Laws and Regulations.

Module 2: The Pesticide Label.

Module 3: Protecting the Pesticide Handler.

Module 4: Guidelines for Proper Pesticide Handling.

Module 5: Pesticides and the Environment.

Module 6: Integrated Pest Management.

The series includes on-screen tests and comes with printed discussion guides and sets of questions and answers to help employers insure that their employees understand essential information.

Contact: Amy E. Brown at (301) 405-3928. To order, send a check or money order payable to the University of Maryland, c/o Video Resource Center, 0120 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

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