

# GREEN INDUSTRY SHOWCASE

## Synthetic lubricants: the wave of the future?

by Mark A. Massoglia

■ Equipment maintenance can often be the determining factor in the success or failure of a landscape business.

A landscaper can't survive long without properly maintained equipment. And proper lubricant selection is the key element in any preventive maintenance program.

For decades, motor oils, two-cycle engine oils, gear lubricants and greases were made entirely from petroleum crude

oil. More recently, however, synthetic lubricants have proven to provide vehicles and equipment with superior protection and extended service life. They are a bona fide alternative to petroleum lubricants.

Advances in engine technology over recent years have decreased the tolerances between engine components, and as a result, lubricants are put under more stress than ever. Combining tighter tolerances with changing fuel quality has resulted in more low temperature congealing, thermal breakdown, accelerated car-

bon deposits in two-cycle engines; high temperature volatilization in four-cycle engines.

Although petroleum goes through a refining process to remove impurities, some residue remains. Synthetic oil bases, on the other hand, are made from the chemically-engineered reaction of materials to produce a compound with a stable molecular structure.

Advantages of synthetic lubricants:

- They provide a superior lubricating film that allows components to move freely without causing metal-to-metal contact.

- Power is increased because less energy is being exerted during the lubrication process.

- Synthetic lubricants contain no wax, providing components with near-instant protection in the critical moments immediately after start-up.

- They are more resistant to thermal breakdown caused by oxidation because they contain no impurities and are able to withstand extreme temperatures.

Business owners and maintenance managers would be wise to note the many advantages of synthetic lubricants. They provide superior performance and are formulated to meet the ever-increasing environmental regulations for off-road equipment.

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—The author is a technical writer for Amsoil, Inc., Superior, Wisc.



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### PRODUCTS SHOWCASE

#### Fungicide label extends ornamental, turf control

Daconil 2787 flowable fungicide, from ISK Biotech, now extends to 55 damaging diseases on 78 species of broadleaf shrubs and trees—including conifers—as well as foliage plants and flowering plants and bulbs.

A recent review by the Environmental Protection Agency made the label extension possible.

In turf applications, Daconil 2787 fungicide is now labeled for control of algal scum, as well as a broader range of the fungal pathogens that cause dollar spot, brown patch, leaf spot, melting-out, brown blight

and other diseases.

ISK turf and specialty products sales manager, Jerry Pauley, says the label expansion is particularly important due to the growing threat of fungal resistance to single-site fungicides.

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#### Perennial ryegrass matures early with dark green color

Fine Lawn Research, Inc. has released a new perennial ryegrass, Stallion Select.

Stallion Select (PS-105op rated perennial ryegrass variety, is an early maturing variety with a dark green color. It is semi-dwarf, and produces a dense turf with

excellent mowing qualities.

Stallion Select is unique, says Fine Lawn, in that it has good resistance to rust, crown rust and leaf spot.

Quick establishment and compatibility with other perennial ryegrass varieties is considered a plus.

Other traits include:

- high levels of beneficial endophytes, at 94 percent or higher;

- good adaptation to cool-season climates. Stallion Select is suited for use in the south as an annual overseeding of Bermudagrass on lawns and golf courses (plant hardiness zones 2 through 10).

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