

# HOT TOPICS

## Goal: 1 million Liberty elms by the year 2000

**HARRISVILLE, N.H.**—A relatively new type of disease-resistant American elm is replacing those lost to Dutch elm disease on golf courses and landscapes.

Goal set by the Elm Research Institute is 1 million American Liberty elms (*Ulmus americana libertas*) in U.S. landscapes by the year 2000.

The effort has begun in such diverse climates as Unity, Maine; Birmingham, Ala.; Pueblo, Col.; Jackson, Minn.; Deerfield Beach, Fla.; and Cimarron, N.M. The tree is hardy in zones 2 through 9, and is tolerant to pollution and other urban conditions.

The Liberty elm is a thoroughly native American elm, not a hybrid. It's a direct descendent of selected American elm parents that proved their ability to fend off disease when inoculated with DED fungus. Parent trees are still thriving at 35 years of age.

The Liberty elm has the ability to compartmentalize, thereby creating extremely narrow capillaries, so if the DED fungus is introduced, it is prevented from moving through the tree and cutting off nutrient supplies.

The trees are propagated through cuttings rather than seed to preserve the disease-resistant characteristic.

At the same time, the Liberty series offers landscape managers diversity with six different cultivars.

**Golf course applications**—When American elms reigned, there were 3000 of them at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Now 100 are left, and those are protected with injections of ERI's fungicide.

Carey Mitchelson, the golf course superintendent, obtained 12 American Liberty elms six years ago. When they reached the required size, they were planted on the course, for donations of only \$100 each. The elms are now 25 feet tall and have the classic shape of the American elm.

"When those trees grew to such a height so rapidly," says Mitchelson, "and we sold all the trees to the membership so quickly, that's when we decided we should do this on a larger scale."

The golf course took out a \$300 membership, which entitled it to the 125 young elms. A Boy Scout troop helps care for them in a nursery on the course. Mitchelson's own son Justin, a scout, will organize the transplanting of 25 elms into the community of Grosse Pointe.

"The trees are doing really well," says Mitchelson. "We're very happy with them."

**Landscape applications**—Before Jim Turner became the owner of North Monroe (La.) Landscape Service, he was the landscape manager at North Monroe Hospital. There, he designed the landscape with 28 tree species, including American



Liberty elms like this one are catching on fast for landscape managers who want to replace American elms killed by Dutch elm disease.

Liberty elms.

In an unusual freeze in 1989, when temperatures were below 10 degrees for 10 days, the Liberty elms came through. Only one has been lost, and that to a bulldozer during construction.

Patricia Crow, landscape designer with Balmori Associates in New Haven, Conn., says elms are "a very important tree in the landscape and have been historically one of the best street trees ever, until the Dutch elm disease struck. They're really unparalleled in terms of their scale and their form and the quality of light they give.

"They have neither too dense a shade or too thin," Crow notes. "It's just a wonderful light shade with a lot of movement in it, because of the way the branches move. They're not stiff; they're flexible. Even the younger ones begin to have that quality of

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## Final word on turfseed harvest: 'FAIR'

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST** — This year's seed harvest has been questionable for weeks, thanks to temperamental weather, but we finally have a clear supply picture.

The harvest of 1993 reaped modest yields. Weather conditions see-sawed back and forth, from relentless rain to oppressive heat. During one hot spell, the entire crop was considered to be in jeopardy.

**From Post Falls, Ida.:** Glenn Jacklin of Jacklin Seed Co. says proprietary bluegrasses averaged 15 percent off the average yield. Commons are 15 to 20 percent below average, with 400 lbs./acre volume vs. 600-650 lbs./acre in a good year.

Although the supply is slightly below adequate, Jacklin says there is seed to sell.

Jacklin is more concerned about next year's crop, in light of what has been poor field burns. "Moisture late in the season has caused field burns to be delayed by at least three weeks," says Jacklin. As of September 3, 90 percent of the proprietary bluegrasses had yet to be burned. Com-

mon bluegrass fields are burning on time.

Fields are burned after every harvest to purify the land for the next sowing.

**From the Willamette Valley:** Dave Nelson of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission describes fine fescue yields as "off significantly from previous years, at least 20 percent below average."

Rust disease affected yields slightly, but the weather was the prime culprit, as too much rain delayed pollination. Then, when seed was ready, the stalks laid low to the ground and were hard to gather.

Bluegrass harvests were described by Nelson as "fairly decent" in Central and Northeastern Oregon.

Seed quality and weight per acre are excellent, however, reports Nelson.

Other varieties:

- Bentgrass yields: good and on time.
- Tall fescue: below average, but there's plenty of carryover from 1992.
- Perennial rye: harvest fair to average.

—Terry McIver

## Products, programs fill up Expo show

**BALTIMORE**—The 1993 Green Industry Expo, scheduled for Nov. 14-18 in Baltimore, Md., features a slate of informative seminars for green industry professionals who want to grow their business.

Exhibit space is sold out, which means attendees will also have plenty of equipment and other products to try and buy.

The annual exposition is co-sponsored by the Professional Lawn Care Association (PLCAA), Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA).

Highlights of the PLCAA program include:

- improving employee performance by linking job accomplishments with wages
- proper pricing strategies, with Charles Van der Kooij;
- managing cash flow
- profiting from lawn renovations.

The PGMS program includes more than a dozen seminars on aeration, tree care, composting, integrated pest manage-

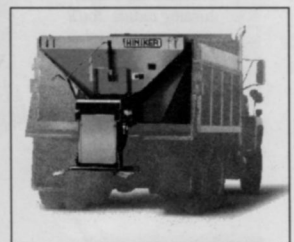
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# Water saved with gypsum

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—

Substantial savings in maintenance costs and water use are being chalked up to gypsum blocks used to measure moisture content.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service here is teaming up with school districts and farmers to investigate these gypsum blocks, which have the potential to save considerable money and water.

"You plant these in the soil where the roots are. When the soil dries up, the gypsum dries up," explains Joe Hengler, associate professor and extension agricultural engineer/irrigation at Texas A&M University.

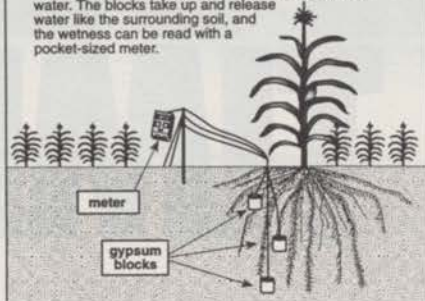
Made of an ingredient in plaster-of-paris, the blocks are buried in the soil at different depths. They take up and release water just like the soil. Their wetness can be read from a pocket-sized meter.

The blocks make it possible to determine how much moisture is available to plants, to spot and correct uneven water distribution, and to help schedule effective but efficient irrigation.

At Crane High School where less than 15 inches of rain falls each year, the football field was watered for an hour every day from March through September. School officials then worked

## Gypsum blocks conserve water

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is teaming up with farmers and school districts across the state to install gypsum blocks. These water-saving tools have the potential to save thousands of dollars and millions of gallons of water. The blocks take up and release water like the surrounding soil, and the wetness can be read with a pocket-sized meter.



Source: Guy Figgs, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M System

with the extension service to bury the gypsum blocks at 6, 12 and 18 inches.

Moisture readings from the gypsum blocks indicated that the football field needed to be watered only for an hour, just three times per week. The new watering policy saved more than 170,000 gallons of water and nearly \$2,000 during the hottest six weeks of the year.

"Their watering practices changed drastically," says Greg Gruben, Crane County's extension agent. "The field looks just as good, and any time you can save the school system money, you're doing a good deed."

Hengler reports that five or six companies manufacture the gypsum blocks and moisture meters. "Some devices are tied to your (irrigation system) timer. Football fields are good targets, but I'm sure it would be a benefit to parks and golf courses."

—Jim Guyette

### ACTUAL WATER USE AND COST DATA CRANE (TEXAS) HIGH SCHOOL

Month	1989		1990	
	Gallons	Cost	Gallons	Cost
July	193,332	\$2,938.65	125,835	\$1,912.69
August	96,309	\$1,362.39	25,945	\$394.36
Sept.	115,112	\$1,749.70	82,670	\$1,256.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>404,753</b>	<b>\$6,050.74</b>	<b>234,450</b>	<b>\$3,563.63</b>

Source: Greg Gruben

The illustration shows a hand in a dark sleeve loading a large, dark, mechanical device with several bullets. The device has a large, spoked wheel on the left side. From the right side of the device, a large, bright orange and red flame or explosion is emerging. Several bullets are shown in motion, flying through the air. The background is a light yellow color.

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**ATHLETIC TURF VIDEO...**"Floyd Perry's ABCs of Grounds Maintenance" is a training video for baseball and softball groundskeepers. The two-tape series contains tips and techniques for athletic field care. The 85-minute video includes detailed explanations, multi-camera angles and computer graphics. It is co-sponsored by Toro. To order, contact GM Video, P.O. Box 617018, Orlando, FL 32861; (800) 886-2006.

**HORTICULTURE CAREERS...**The American Society for Horticultural Science has a new video, "Careers in Horticulture." The 15-minute video costs \$39.95 including shipping and handling. Preview copies are not available for single copy orders.

To order, contact the American Society for Horticultural Science, 113 S. West St., Suite, 400, Alexandria, VA 22314-2824.

MasterCard and VISA orders can be placed by fax to (703) 836-2024.

**ORGANIC WHOLESALERS...**The National Directory of Organic Wholesalers contains names of more than 690 organic food wholesalers, farm suppliers and distributors across North America, and key buyers internationally.

To order, send \$34.95 plus \$4 first class shipping and handling to CAFF, P.O. Box 464, Davis, CA 95617. To order by phone, call (916) 756-8518.

**LANDSCAPING'S VALUE...**The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) has published a *Commercial Value Brochure* to promote the value of professional landscaping in commercial settings.

ALCA believes this brochure can be a helpful marketing aid to help contractors create awareness of their services.

To order, contact: ALCA, 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091; (703) 620-6363; fax: (703) 620-6365.

**FINDING FOLIAGE...**The Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association (FNGA) has published the 18th edition of its *Foliage*

Locator, which features plant availability, allied products, transportation directory, membership directory and Florida regional maps.

To order for May delivery, contact: FNGA, 5401 Kirkman Rd., Ste. 650, Orlando, FL 32819; (407) 345-8137.

**GUIDE TO DIAGNOSING...**A guidebook from Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company offers a reference guide to help diagnose pest problems.

*Lawnscapes and Ornamentals: Problems and Solutions*, is a quick reference guide to many of the common insects, diseases and weeds that daily confront landscapers and nurserymen. The 43-page booklet describes a variety of pests, their lifecycles, the damage they cause and the cultural and chemical options available to control them.

Green industry professionals can obtain a copy by contacting their local Chipco distributor or Chipco sales representative. Each recipient will be asked to complete a one-page customer profile which analyzes their specific pest problems.

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**LIBERTY ELM** from page 42  
movement that the older trees have.”

Her company has specified American Liberty elms for two recent projects. “We’re very much interested in trying to re-introduce them into the landscape in certain situations,” Crow says. “Certainly for historical projects, locations in public areas, on campuses. There are so many uses for them.”

For more information on American Liberty elms, call 1-800-FOR-ELMS (367-3567) or write: Elm Research Institute, Elm Street, Harrisville, NH 03450.

**GIE EXPO** from page 43

ment and ways smaller landscape contractors can successfully compete with larger companies in the '90s.

ALCA's presentations feature customer service, cost management, marketing, and how to successfully begin a design/build business.

Keynote speakers for Expo '93 are Ty Boyd, well-known motivational speaker and author, and John and Greg Rice, co-founders of Think Big, Inc. Boyd will focus

on how to face the challenges of the '90s without compromising personal ethics. The Rice brothers will cover creative problem solving.

The PLCAA benefit auction again features a variety of products from green industry suppliers.

ALCA's "Breakfast of Champions" sessions will be held each morning of the exposition. Discussion topics include selling maintenance services; client relations; and ways to get a new business off the ground.

ALCA also features an all day, pre-conference seminar by Bob Whiting: "Hiring and Firing—Building a Strong Team."

The popular annual outdoor equipment demonstration rounds out the show on the morning of Nov. 18.

It's still not too late to register. For more information on air fares, lodging and full show schedules, call one of the following numbers:

**PLCAA:** (404) 977-5222;

**ALCA:** (703) 620-6363;

**PGMS:** (410) 584-9754.

# GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

**9-12: New York Turfgrass Turf & Grounds Expo**, Rochester (N.Y.) Riverside Convention Center. Contact: NYSTA, (800) 873-8873.

**11-13: Landscape Maintenance Association's Equipment Show & Conference**, Delta Orlando Resort. Contacts: exhibit space: Betsy Laird, (813) 731-6024; tickets: (813) 965-8604.

**14-18: Green Industry Exposition**, Baltimore, Md. Contacts: ALCA members call (703) 620-6363; PLCAA members call (800) 458-3466; PGMS members call (410) 667-1833.

**16-17: Urban Tree Care Seminar**, Howard Johnson Motel, Lafayette, Ind. Contacts: Sueann Smith, (317) 494-7225 or Harvey Holt, (317) 494-3585.

**18-19: Midwest Reconstruction & Cleanup Conference**, Washington, D.C. Contact: King Communications Group, (202) 638-4260.

**18-20: National Arborist Association's TCI Expo '93**, Cleveland Convention Center. Contact: (800) 733-2622.

**19: National Water Features Association Trade Show**, Orlando (Fla.) Twin Towers. Contact: NWFA, (407) 849-4312.

**29-Dec. 1: North Central Turfgrass Expo**, Pheasant Run Resort & Expo Center, St. Charles, Ill. Contact: NCTE, (312) 616-0800.

**30-Dec. 2: Southern Turfgrass Association Conference and Show**, New Orleans, La. Contact: (901) 377-7194.

## DECEMBER

**1-3: New Jersey Turfgrass Expo**, Garden State Convention & Exhibit Center. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

**1-3: Rocky Mountain Turf Conference & Trade Show**, Currigan Hall, Denver, Colo. Contact: (303) 688-3440.

**1-3: Golf Course Europe**, Palais des Congres, Paris, France. Contact: Boris Franckomme, (510) 526-6922.

**3: "Dealing with the Competition of the '90s,"** presented by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and the Texas Association of Landscape Contractors. Contact: ALCA, (800) 395-2522.

**6-9: Ohio Turf Foundation Conference & Show**, Columbus (Ohio) Convention Center. Contact: OTF, (614) 292-2601.

**7-9: New Jersey Expo '93:** Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Atlantic City, N.J. Contact: N.J. Turfgrass Ass'n., (908) 821-7134.

**7-9: Georgia Turfgrass Conference & Show**, Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association, (404) 975-4124.

**8-9: Environmental Care Ass'n. of Idaho Convention & Trade Show**, Weston Plaza, Twin Falls, Ida. Contact: Ben Miller, (208) 342-8899.

**14: Rutgers Univ. Roadside and Vegetation Management Seminar**, New Brunswick, N.J. Contact: Cook College, (908) 932-9271.

**15: LCAP Winter Educational Meeting**, Embers Inn, Carlisle, Penn. Contact: LCAP headquarters, (717) 236-2050.

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