

# HOT TOPICS

## ALCA acquires technician certification program

**RESTON, Va.**—A national certification program for landscape technicians is in the works.

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) agreed to purchase the Certified Landscape Technician Program that was developed by the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA). This is the same program used the past several years in California and also by landscape associations in Colorado, Oregon and Washington.

"We will be forming a National Landscape Technician Council to review the tests and discuss and approve regional test differences," says ALCA Executive Director Debra Atkins. CLCA developed the test over an eight-year period. She said ALCA's Board of Governors decided that it is "an excellent program," and didn't see a reason to duplicate the efforts of the CLCA.



Sometime yet in 1994 each state will be given the opportunity to set dates and sites for offering the National Certified Landscape Technician Program, which deals primarily with exterior landscaping knowledge and skills.

A news release on CLCA letterhead signed by Henry Buder, CLT ("Certified Landscape Technician"), said that the CLCA in January 1993 offered to sell ALCA the program so that it could be administered nationally. ALCA studied the program—some members even personally visiting test sites—before finally offering \$40,000 to acquire the program last month.

The technician certification program will complement several other certification programs that ALCA administers, explains Atkins, including its Certified Landscape Professional (for owners and managers), which has been up and running since January 1993.

Eventually, said Atkins, ALCA hopes to administer certification programs covering most aspects of professional landscaping, both interior and exterior.

—Ron Hall

## Stihl recalling backpack blowers and sprayers with fuel line leak

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.**—Stihl, Inc. is recalling all BR 320, BR 400, SR 320 and SR 400 backpack blowers and sprayers manufactured after Oct. 21, 1991 with serial numbers above #224438666.

The serial number can be seen through a small opening above the recoil starter housing indicated with an embossed "No. ♣."

This recall is necessary, Stihl says, because of possible fuel line leaks "that could cause a fire under certain condi-

tions, resulting in the serious injury or death of users or bystanders."

The questionable units were sold from November 1991 to the present.

If you have purchased one of these units, Stihl recommends you discontinue its use immediately and return it to an

authorized Stihl dealer for replacement of the fuel line and modification of the fuel tank at no cost.

If you have any questions, contact your Stihl dealer (Yellow Pages under "Saws") or call (804) 486-8444.



Locating the serial number on Stihl's BR 320, BR 400, SR 320 & SR 400.

### ELSEWHERE

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## Motz acquires rights to P.A.T.

**CINCINNATI**—Local businessman Joseph E. Motz thinks advances in drainage technology will drive professional and collegiate sports back to natural grass fields.

Motz, owner and president of Motz, Inc., announced the purchase of Turfgrass Services, Inc., Pueblo, Colo., gaining rights to the athletic field design system known as Prescription Athletic Turf (P.A.T.).

P.A.T. is based on the use of vacuum to forcibly extract water from the sand-based field, keeping the surface mud free and playable even under extreme weather conditions. The action can be reversed to irrigate the field from the base up, allowing the turf to be watered even while it is under play, explained Motz. Subsurface electronic moisture sensors tied into the vacuum and irrigation systems allow P.A.T. to function automatically.

P.A.T. was invented at Purdue University about 20 years ago and has since been installed on 34 major playing fields, including: Soldier Field, Chicago; Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami; Camden Yards, Baltimore; Ohio Stadium, Columbus; and Seminole Stadium, Tallahassee, Fla.

Motz's Sports Turf Division manages two P.A.T. fields in Cincinnati as well as constructing athletic fields throughout the tri-state (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana). It also provides technical management services to more than 35 university and high school fields in that area.

"There is nothing like P.A.T. anywhere in the world," says Motz. "The \$600,000-plus price tag puts P.A.T. within reach of only the sporting elite. Potential for the system is as strong overseas as it is in the United States."

### Lawn care panel predicts:

## Give customers more value

**KANSAS CITY**—"To make our products worth the price, we must give the customer added value," said Gary Ahrens of Interstate Distributing at the second annual Western Lawn Expo here.

Ahrens was on a "Future of the Lawn Care Industry" panel.

David Zerfoss of Husqvarna Forest & Garden agreed: "The dealer must do something different—like supplying a greater number of products, or promoting after-

market service or his intimate knowledge of the industry and its products."

John Cundiff of Turf's Up Lawn Service said this: "Things are getting tougher, as worker compensation, mandated health care and NAFTA continue to creep into our day-to-day operation."

Other panel members were John Smith of Exmark Manufacturing and Tom Glaub of the North American Equipment Dealers Association.

## GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

What's going on in the industry

### MAY

**14: Baseball/Softball Field Maintenance**, Boone, Iowa. Phone: Gary Peterson, (515) 791-0765.

**17: Scouting for Pests and Problems in the Landscape**, Sandwich, Mass. Phone: Kathleen Carroll, (413) 545-0895. (Repeated June 1 in Waltham, June 9 in Amherst.)

**18: North Carolina Turf & Landscape Research Field Day**, Raleigh. Phone: (919) 266-1777.

**18-20: Color Magic '94**, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla. Phone: Florida Nursery Growers Association, (407) 345-8137.

**24: Sports Turf Workshop**, Kane County Event Center, Geneva, Ill. Phone: (708) 439-4727.

### JUNE

**8: Lofts Ohio Field Day**, Wilmington, Ohio. Phone: David Goodwin, (513) 382-

1127 or (800) 382-1127.

**10: Lofts Maryland Field Day**, Beltsville, Md. Phone: John Patton, (301) 937-3332 or (800) 732-3332.

**13-18: Harvard University Graduate School of Design courses and workshops** in golf course design, site planning, development, Cambridge, Mass. Phone: (617) 495-1680.

**16: Turf-Seed Inc./Pure Seed Testing Inc. Field Day**, Hubbard, Ore. Phone: Tom Stanley, (503) 651-2130.

**22: Sports Turf Association (Canada) Annual Field Day**, Guelph Turf Institute, Canada. Phone: Jane Rivers, (905) 847-9181.

**23: University of Massachusetts Turf Research Field Day**, South Deerfield, Mass. Phone: Dr. Richard Cooper, (413) 545-2353.

**23: Biological Control of Insect and Mite Pests of Woody Landscape Plants**, Amherst, Mass. Phone: Kathleen Carroll, (413) 545-0895.

## PLCAA spotlights profit, professionalism; ALCA, PGMS join in for Green Industry Expo

**MARIETTA, Ga.**—"Profit Through Professionalism." That's the theme for the 1994 Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) Conference Nov. 13-17 in St. Louis, Mo.

Joe Williams of Lawn Master, Inc., Pensacola, Fla. is a PLCAA board member. He describes the conference as "the one-stop education extravaganza and shopping event of the year."

The affair begins Sunday morning,

Nov. 13, with a seminar, hosted by the Professional Lawn Care Association of Mid-America, at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. An afternoon pre-conference seminar rounds out the day at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Separate registration is required for each of these events.

The Adam's Mark Hotel serves as the headquarters hotel for PLCAA. The conference educational programs and the trade show take place in the America's Center (formerly Cervantes Convention Center).

The Green Industry Expo/94 is sponsored by PLCAA, the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) and the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS).

For more information on the PLCAA Conference or the Expo, contact: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068; phone (800) 458-3466.

For more information on the conference being held by ALCA, phone (703) 620-6363. For more information on the conference being held by the PGMS, phone (410) 584-9754.

# INFO CENTER

## Selected books and videos for the industry

**GREENS MOWING MADE EASY...**The first program in a continuing golf course superintendent's video training series is called "Greens Mowing Tips and Orientation." The 30-minute video, which features superintendents Paul Latshaw and Darren Davis, has 15-minute segments on triplex mowing and walking greens mowers. Employee handbooks are included. Call (800) 938-4330 for a *free* preview tape.

**TREE CARE VIDEO...**The National Arborist Association is offering a "Ropes, Knots and Tree Climbing" video training tape. It covers the newest techniques for using carabiners, the prusik loop and false crotches, as well as basic instruction in knots and climbing techniques. The video is packaged with employee comprehension sheets and attendance sheets for proper OSHA documentation. For more information, write or call the N.A.A., P.O. Box 1094, Amherst, NJ 03031; (800) 733-2622.

**NEW DOT GUIDE...**To assist lawn care operators in complying with Department of Transportation regulations, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America has developed a "Guide to the Transportation of Pesticides." Price is \$25 for PLCAA members, \$40 for non-members. To order, send check (payable to PLCAA), Visa or MasterCard number and expiration date to: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd. NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068; or fax your order to (404) 578-6071.

**SHADE TREES...**Written by a team of researchers in the Auburn University Department of Horticulture, "Shade Trees for the Southeastern U.S." is designed for landscapers, students, nursery operators, urban foresters, and anyone who works with trees. The 133-page softcover book contains more than 200 color photos. It is available for \$10 per copy. For more infor-

mation, call Robyn Hearn at (205) 844-4877 or send check, money order or purchase order to Research Information, 110 Comer Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849.

**PESTICIDES BY DISKETTE...**C&P Press's new computer program is titled "Electronic Pesticide Reference." It contains 30 chemical manufacturers, full text labels for more than 800 products, 1,000 full text MSDSs, product summaries and current DOT shipping information by product. The program is available on CD-ROM or Multiple Diskettes. Subscribers receive updates every 90 days. For more information, contact C&P Press at 888 Seventh Ave., Suite 2800, New York, NY 10106; (800) 544-7377.

**GOLF SURFACES...**"The Complete Golf Surfacing Buyers Guide" contains a complete line of spike-resistant products like carpeting, rubber rolls and tiles, synthetic turf and ceramic tiles for indoor and outdoor applications. Authors are Scott Shaw and Daniel Jameson. To order a copy, phone R.S. Global Inc. at (800) 451-6762.



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Valley Forge Convention Center  
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### PLANTS

August 17-18, 1994  
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