

# 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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