

# [ CHASING GEESE ]

A Canada goose is wondrous in the air but one of God's most hateful creatures afoot. Noisy. Willful. Aggressive. Get too close to a Canada goose and it'll spread its huge wings, extend its neck like a cobra and hiss with all the menace it can generate.

The late Ken Erhmann hated Canada geese. Ken was in charge of our grounds for about six years prior to this retirement which, unfortunately, he got too few years to enjoy.

It's because of Ken and his successors that the landscape here at the headquarters of Advanstar Communications in suburban Cleveland is a showcase of turfgrass and flowers.

I immediately thought of Ken when the description of a new product, Rejex-It, came across my desk. Apply it to turfgrass (or wherever you need it) and safely repel geese and other waterfowl, say product promoters.

Ken went to incredible lengths to protect our grounds—sometimes employees too—from geese.

It gnawed at him to see geese show so little regard for his handiwork as to rip the turfgrass out by its roots, not to mention the messes they made in the parking lot and on the walkways.

Tom Sprague's in charge of our grounds now. He doesn't like geese any better than Ken did. Tom, however, uses a different strategy.

If Tom decides he's had enough of a particular

goose (and he swears he can often tell one from another), he charges it, waving his arms and shouting like a madman. His face is so full of mayhem that the goose immediately takes off.



Tell us how you keep geese from destroying your turfgrass. At least, tell us what you've tried, and how effective it was. If we publish your idea—it doesn't have to be fancy or anything—we'll send you an official Landscape Management baseball cap.

(If you've got a turf or landscape problem you'd like to see discussed on this page, tell us.

Canada geese flee when Advanstar grounds manager Tom Sprague approaches. What's your solution to this common problem? It could earn you a free "Landscape Management" baseball cap (see below).

## Your turn

Every other month, we report what readers think about current topics in **LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT**. Tell us your solution to **CHASING GEESE** from the property. Tear out or photocopy this page and return it to us. If we use print your answer in the next "Talk Back" column, you'll receive a free high-quality "Landscape Management" baseball cap. Deadline for responses: December 1st. Fax to: (216) 891-2675 Mail to: LM Talk Back, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130 E-mail to: 75553.502@compuserve.com

### Do/did you have problem Canada geese on your property?

- Yes COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_
- No \_\_\_\_\_

### What methods have proven ineffective in controlling their presence?

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

### What particular method has proven most effective in controlling their presence, and why?

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



## Via mail, e-mail, fax, etc.

"Your editorial in the [September] issue was excellent. It was pertinent, gutsy and to the point. Landscape Management continues to get better with each issue. Keep up the good work."

Ron Kujawa  
KEI, Inc.  
Cudahy, Wis.

*Thanks, Ron. We appreciate getting cards like this through the mail, but we're now open to re-*

*ceive e-mail through the Internet, too. The rest of this month's "letters" were received electronically.*

Terrific idea of providing us with an e-mail address! I hope this works out.

One quick suggestion: please try to keep your articles on one page. Due to lack of space and computer scanning capabilities, I normally just tear out the articles I want to

keep on file. It's not impossible, but mainly aggravating, to have a short article start on the bottom of one page, and the end on the next.

I'm sure some Ph.D. in marketing psychology probably has a dozen good reasons why you do this, but from practicality, it's a pain. Otherwise, a very terrific periodical!

Larry Caplan  
Extension Educator  
Vanderburgh County, Ind.

*Check out this issue, Larry. One of the strong points of the new design we're unveiling this month is that we're no longer jumping half-stories from page to page. The Ph.D. who reviewed our old design must've earned his degree in bad taste!*

I would like to thank you for your quick and helpful response to the e-mail I sent you. Your magazine, which I receive free of charge, provides more service than any of the ones I have to pay for. Keep up the good work!

Dave Denison  
Hay Harbor G.C.  
Fisher's Island, N.Y.

*You were lucky, Dave. The information you requested was on file. We've had other requests that weren't as easy, though: one guy wanted to know how to patch up a dusty, weedy football field in 100 words or less. Yeah. Right.*

I'm glad to see someone in our industry has entered cyberspace. We can all benefit from better communications. Personally, I don't have time to play phone tag or write letters. I enjoy your magazine. Keep up the good work!

Jim Yonce  
Yeamans Hall Club  
Charleston, S.C.

*Aside to newcomers in cyberspace: if you get lost, hit the "escape" key. Luckily, we found our way back to Cleveland just in time to get out this month's special GIE issue. Enjoy.*

## What 'seed bargaining' is all about

### To the editor:

In your August issue, on page 10 you quoted a very good friend of mine and a former co-worker, Dr. Jerry Pepin of Pickseed West. The quote is subheaded, "Uh-oh" and says:

"Perennial ryegrass prices will be up considerably over last year. The Perennial Ryegrass Bargaining Association is a factor this year. But I don't know how long they will be able to keep prices up, because this is a supply-and-demand industry."

The PRBA acknowledges that it is the major influencing factor for a higher price to the turf-type perennial ryegrass seed producer for the 1995 crop year.

The average grower price for turf-type perennial ryegrass seed...compares with grower prices paid in the early 1970s. However, the prices for tractors, combines and other equipment have doubled since 1970. Additionally, the seed producer has faced increasing restrictions and regulations in field sanitation techniques and the use of pesticides.

Usage of perennial ryegrass seed in the same period has increased from 116 to 174 million pounds...[thanks to] the strong efforts by the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission as well as market promotion by each of the companies.

The only aspect that the PRBA has any influence on is the price of the seed being produced under grower contracts. The seed dealer makes the decision on the acreage they want produced. Neither the PRBA nor the seed grower makes decisions on increasing or decreasing production of varieties being produced under a seed grower contract.

Supply and demand governs the commodity market price, whether it's speculative or a true market condition.

The PRBA recognizes the importance of the professional turf market. It is not the objective of the PRBA to cause any hardship on any segment of this market. Our objective is to continue production of a high quality product to ensure the ultimate user is provided with seed that is genetically pure, without weed and crop contamination.

We would like to point out that the quality standards of the PRBA's "Tournament" quality seed are higher than the quality standards for certified seed.

A final objective of the PRBA is to influence a more stable market price that professional turf managers can depend on for the improved turf-type perennial ryegrass varieties.

Jim Carnes  
Executive Director  
PRBA