

INFO CENTER

Books, literature and videos for the green industry

SPORTS PLANS...Typical sports field irrigation plans are now available from Hunter Industries for use as general guidelines in preparing estimates and installations. Included are layouts for football, baseball, softball, tennis, soccer, lawn bowling and croquet. The plans, which are 11 by 17 inches, are scaled to professional sports field standards. A set of 27 plans are included, three-hole punched. Cost is \$15 for the plans; with a Hunter Sports Field Plan binder, \$20. To order, call (619) 471-9010.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES...A new guide contains current, research-based information on fertilizing trees, shrubs and lawns; the fate of pesticides; low maintenance trees, shrubs and grasses. Also included are in-depth reviews of proper planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs; integrated pest management and a comprehensive list of recommended plants for a variety of locations. Cost of the 74-page publication is \$7.50. Make check or money order payable to UMass and send to Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, Univ. Mass., Amherst, MA 01003; or call Kathleen Carroll at (413) 545-0895.

ESTIMATING...The Professional Grounds Management Society's updated "Estimating Guidelines" is now available for \$15. Long held to be the estimating "bible" by grounds professionals, the booklet is 36 pages long, three-hole punched. Included are a cost estimating worksheet, points of cost generation, how to estimate, costs vs. bid, personnel costs, machine costs, capital cost calculations, etc. Send orders to PGMS, 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. (Maryland residents add 75 cents state sales tax.)

PRUNING STANDARD...The International Society of Arboriculture and the National Arborist Association are both offering copies of the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard. It is titled "Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance: Standard Practices." To order through the ISA, send \$20 for each publication (\$15 for ISA members) to ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL

61874. Add \$5 for domestic shipping. To order through the NAA, phone (603) 673-3311 or e-mail to 76142.463@com-puserve.com.

EN ESPAÑOL...The Ball Floriculture Dictionary translates from English to Spanish and vice versa. It is a practical, handy book for people in the floriculture business with more than 6,000 entries and a cross-referencing system. For more information, write Ball Publishing, P.O. Box 9, Batavia, IL 60510. In the U.S., phone (800) 456-5380 or fax (800) 456-0132. Outside the U.S., phone (708) 208-9089 or fax (708) 208-9350.

BETTER BUSINESS..."The Successful Business Plan: Secrets & Strategies" is now available for \$25.50 from the American Association of Nurserymen, 1250 I St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. An excellent tool for businesses that need financing, it contains more than 150 tips from 15 insiders who reveal what most impresses the people who evaluate and fund business plans. Seventy-two worksheets make it easy, and a sample plan guides you. AAN members receive a \$4 discount. For more information, phone (202) 789-2900 or fax (202) 789-1893.

FIFTY PUBLICATIONS...In its new Publications Catalog, the Associated Landscape Contractors of America has listed more than 50 publications designed exclusively for the green industry. Included is information on everything from managing your finances in a tough economy to creating a safer work environment to marketing your valuable services. For a free copy, contact ALCA at 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091; phone (800) 395-2522 or fax (703) 620-6365.

NOW ON TAPE...The "Tree Climbers' Guide" is now on five 60-minute audio cassettes that contain every word of Sharon Lilly's book. Cost is \$40 (\$30 for International Society of Arboriculture members). Shipping & handling to U.S. points is \$5. Contact Robin Kopp at the ISA for more information: (217) 355-9516.

PSU's Huff: 'commando' research on turfgrasses

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—How much damage can the treads of a 60-ton M-1 Abrams tank do on grass?

Enough that David Huff of Penn State University is trying to develop new grasses to revegetate military training sites.

"In times of war, you can't be concerned about environmental impacts, but the Army realizes that there is no need to destroy an environment for training purposes," says Huff.

Research for the project, which is funded through the Army's Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., will be done at Fort Drum near Watertown, N.Y., and at Penn State's turfgrass facilities here.

"At Fort Drum, we were out there with the troops and the tanks and practice artillery," remembers Huff. "It was like collecting plants in the middle of a war zone—commando botany."

Huff is trying to develop a grass species that grows fast enough to revegetate barren stretches of ground while also exhibiting the resiliency to grow back after a tank or a company of soldiers tramps all over it.

He is examining local native grasses such as crinkled hairgrass and some commercially available grasses like fine fescues.

"We want a hardy species that can grow back from below-ground growing points while also giving us enough seed production to keep reseeding," says Huff. "Otherwise, this isn't a beauty contest—we don't care what the grass looks like."

By concentrating on grasses collected at Fort Drum, Huff can use individual species' natural adaptability while selectively breeding other traits like seed production and/or disease resistance.

The research may also help land reclamation and restoration efforts.

"I think grasses are one of the greatest tools for reclaiming land," Huff says. "At Fort Drum, which has very sandy soil, these grasses could turn inland sand dunes into usable land. It's a very slow process and you have to have a lot of patience. The Army realizes it's not going to be done overnight."