



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

### No throw-away

To the editor:

Finally, after years of throwing the trade mags in the magazine rack due to lack of good, solid information, I can enjoy this one. The November, 1995 issue was loaded with good tips for this 11-year warrior.

I look forward to next month and intend to follow some new paths due to an article or two. Thanks.

Shawn Wakefield  
Wakefield Landscape  
Auburn, Calif.

*(Shawn: Ahhhh. Like the homeowner or golfer who gushes over the property, it's comments like this that keep us editors going every month.)*

### Editors' choice?

To the editor:

Referring to your article in the February '96 issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* "Editors' Choice: Products for 1996," you made the statement that the Groundtek Lady Bug is "neat." It seems to me that this machine compromises operator safety.

The spray boom is in front of the operator, subjecting him/her to spray drift. The rotary spreader is in front of the operator as well, subjecting him/her to fertilizer dust or—even worse—chemical dust in the case of combination products. Mounting these behind the operator seems like a much safer way to go.

As a golf course superintendent, I am very aware of the safety concerns the public has regarding pesticide usage and the importance of having professionals apply these products. This machine does not look very professional to me.

I am very interested in hearing your comments regarding this.

Larry Livingston  
via e-mail

*(Larry: George Bori, general manager at Groundtek, addresses your concerns about the Lady Bug:*

*"There is a safety shield behind the spreader, and—as always—it's suggested that the operator wear the proper clothing and respiration equipment.*

*"The sprayer works with a low rate of pressure—10 psi—at the boom, and the special nozzles we use are low to the ground. The sprayer is also angled for good coverage, and the boom is so close to the operator that, as you travel forward, the product goes away from you. So drift is practically non-existent. You should, however, make sure to use quality materials with low dust to further reduce any potential problems.*

*"Obviously, if there was a problem, I wouldn't have large companies interested [buying] in the unit.")*

# Events

MAY

**3-4: Homestead International Plant Show**, Youth/Fair Expo, Miami, Fla. Phone: (305) 246-2113.

**6-8: Southeastern Turfgrass Conference**, Tifton, Ga. Phone: Jeanne Werner, (912) 386-3416.

**7: Outdoor Power Equipment annual meeting of the Certification Test Committee and Engine & Equipment Training Council**, Irving, Texas. Phone: Tom Kane, Kubota Tractor Co., (310) 370-3370.

**7-11: International Society of Arboriculture Western Chapter annual conference**, Hawaiian Regent Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii. Phone: (916) 641-2990 or Roger Garrigue, (818) 246-5260.

**20-21: Developing a Golf Course Community seminar**, Buena Vista Palace, Orlando, Fla. Phone: (800) 999-3123.

**23-25: People/Plant Interactions in Urban Areas symposium**, San Antonio, Texas. Phone: Dr. Jayne Zajicek, (409) 845-4482.

**27-June 11: Garden Tour of Scotland**. Phone: (800) 757-0404.

**29-June 1: American Association of Botanical Gardens/Arboreta annual conference**, St. Louis, Mo. Phone: Kate Broniflawski, (610) 688-1120.

**29-June 5: International Plant Propagators' Society meeting**, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone: Jim Booman, (619) 630-4170.

**30-31: Elements of Color; Color Magic conference**, Inn at Maingate, Kissimmee, Fla. Phone: Merry Mott, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, (800) 375-3642.

**30-June 1: American Horticultural Society annual meeting**, St. Louis, Mo. Phone: Bridget Flint, (703) 768-5700.

**31-June 2: Christmas Decorating Conference**, Pittsburgh. Phone: Kathy Pizon, Plantscape, (412) 281-6352.