

**L**ooking over our article index for 1997, we're glad to have brought you a variety of articles and news this year. But onward we go, as many things we reported on for you in 1997 will continue to pick up steam in 1998.

The biological market is "bubbling," as we wrote in June. These products are getting the attention of our leading turfgrass researchers, and have achieved official "seminar subject status" at turfgrass conferences.

Those who have reported favorably on biological products include Dr. Hank Wilkinson of the Univ. of Illinois, Dr. Fred Baxendale of Nebraska, and Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell. Nelson, while not endorsing any particular bio product, spoke of their promise at the New York State Turfgrass Association show in Syracuse last month. Some superiors like them for positive pr, says Nelson. The "environmentally friendly" angle, a valid concern, is more acceptable to some. The questions is, are they also easy to fit into existing control strategy?

"Others see biological controls as perhaps the most effective and sustainable approach to disease management," says Nelson. The use of corn gluten meal products as herbicides is on the rise, reports Nelson. Discovered by Dr. Nick Christians of the University of Nebraska, and reported on by LM a couple years back, five million pounds have been sold in 1997, for goosegrass and crabgrass control. Not a huge amount, but it's good to see an "alternative" product that works. There are also some notable new control products from the big boys, such as Rohmid's MACH 2, Bayer's Merit, and Conserve, from DowAgrosciences (the soon to be new name for DowElanco).

We feel we were assertive in our athletic field

editorial this year. Groups such as the STMA and its regional chapters; people such as Floyd Perry; Dr. Kent Kurtz; David Mellor; and Dr. David Minner have all contributed mightily this year. Managing editor Ron Hall and myself have spoken with many other athletic turf managers who feel the most important issue of the day is finding ways to fund turfgrass management and renovation. Watch for more on this from LM in 1998.

We're proud to have been the first Green Industry magazine to highlight the growing need for equipment maintenance training, and the lack of good mechanics in times of full employment.

We also broke the story on the Green Industry labor crisis, which earned us an award from Turf & Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA). In fact, we took six TOCAs!

Other employee issues we covered in 1997: recruitment; training; retention; incentive pay and motivation.

In October, we brought you our *35th Anniversary Issue*, a special look back at how far the industry has come since 1962.

Looking ahead, the EPA is on a roll as it cranks up its Food Quality Protection mandates and examines endocrine disorders and children's exposure to pesticides and dirty air.

But let's not get too excited about 2000. It's just another year when it comes to getting the customers, getting the employees, getting the funding, and getting the job done. There are no breaks from '99-00, and the season then will be just as long as in any other year.

As editors, we know what you want to see from this magazine, and we strive to get you the best information you can use on any given day.

This *Green Book* is an example. It's your year-long reference to the people and places that make the Green Industry tick. Just about anyone you need to call is listed here, from turfgrass researchers to equipment manufacturers. When you have a question that needs answering, think '*Green Book*,' and your answer is not far off.

Best wishes for a great '98!

## Green Industry ideas, issues are 'to be continued'



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