

He writes...he scores!

Timothy J. Doppel is not widely known as an author, not outside of the Detroit area anyway. He's the owner of Atwood LawnCare, Inc., in Sterling Heights, Mich.

Doppel however, earned PLCAA's Fourth Annual Environmental Improvement Award in 1996—sponsored by *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine—partly because of his writing talents. He used these

talents to help educate homeowners and professionals alike in southeastern Michigan about the responsible use of quick-release fertilizers and pesticides. These efforts resulted in him authoring the book, *The Healthy Landscape: Landscape Care for a New Century*.

The book contains a series of articles that he wrote for the *Landscape Architect*, the monthly magazine of the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association (MDLA). The articles detail responsible use of fertilizers and pesticides.

The book resulted from his involvement as a technical resource person on the steering committee of an organization known as the Healthy Lawn and Garden Project. Its purpose was to reduce the use of quick-release fertilizers and the overuse of pesticides to

protect ground and surface water in Oakland County, Mich. Doppel was one of MDLA's representatives on the committee.

But before the project could get underway, everyone had to agree on what constituted a "healthy landscape."

After several months of reviewing recognized horticultural, agronomic and IPM principals, an advisory committee came up with this definition:

- ▶ right plant in the right place
- ▶ fertile soils with organic matter content
- ▶ yard clippings and wastes used as resources on-site
- ▶ diversity of flowers, vegetables, trees and insects
- ▶ active biological soil system that allows soil to provide nutrients for plant growth
- ▶ essential needs of plants for growth considered, including nutrient and water needs
- ▶ careful use of pesticide and quick-release fertilizers which may harm water resources and public health if misused.

In writing the articles Doppel sought the knowledge and advice of respected turfgrass and landscape experts in Michigan and surrounding states. He says he also received valuable help from the MDLA and green industry professionals in the Detroit area.

His articles garnered such positive response that it was decided to gather them into a book that could serve as a training and resource document for landscape professionals and others.

In June 1996, 1000 copies of *The Healthy Landscape* were published. Copies went to MDLA members, Michigan State University Extension and the Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority. Others were made available at green industry seminars and conferences. A second printing of the book is likely in March.

Meanwhile Doppel, in addition to running Atwood LawnCare, a company he purchased about 12 years ago, maintains a busy schedule writing for the *Landscape Architect*, serving on green industry committees, and speaking on behalf of the industry. □

*PLCAA presents LM-sponsored
"Environmental Improvement
Award" to Detroit-area LCO
for book on landscape care.*



Tim Doppel receives the PLCAA Environmental Improvement Award from Terry McIver, LM editor-in-chief, during the Green Industry Expo.