



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

One hit, one miss,  
says reader

I appreciated your article on diazinon in Texas (January, 1997). It clearly stated the fact that the average homeowner does not understand how to use or dispose of toxic products. I feel that most of us in the industry are sensitive to environmental issues, and most of us do take the time to educate our customers. The real problem, in my opinion, is with the mass merchant, who is not interested in safety or the environment when it gets in the way of profit.

On the other hand, I was appalled that you printed the article on Litchfield Park, Ariz. (January issue). This is an example of landscaping that should not be used in an area that is having problems with water resources. If the people of this community feel the need for

palms, orange trees and lush green bermuda, they should move to Florida.

If the taxpayers were aware of how much money was being wasted, they might hire a new city manager. What is wrong with using the many native grasses, trees and shrubs that make Arizona what it is?

Shouldn't "The Voice of the Green Industry" be speaking against needless waste and for landscapes that make sense?

*Paul Dowlearn, Wichita Valley Landscape, Wichita Falls, Texas*

**Bob Gaunt, director of public works for the City of Litchfield Park, replies:**

*In the past six years, we have turned numerous turf areas into xeriscape landscaping. We also have one, five-acre park that is totally landscaped with native desert plants.*

*The City has received five tree grants (about 40 trees per grant)*

*during the past six years. All trees were low-water use and were used to replace high-water use on trees.*

*Our City does have approximately 1,400 palm trees, which are considered low-water users.*

*We are very much aware of the importance of water conservation. Watering is done in the most efficient and cost effective manner and all feasible conservation procedures are implemented. We are very proud of our city and of the distinction of being recognized as a "Tree City, U.S.A." for three years in a row.*

*The City of Litchfield Park does not have a personal property tax. The City operates on a budget generated by revenues from state sales tax and bed tax.*

*The article incorrectly gave the population of Litchfield Park as 38,000. The correct population of our small community is 3,800.*

## Weather on the web

Re: your January article, "Weather smarts":

I started using PC Weatherman back in 1992. Then, the FAA took away the free data service, and I began using the Internet. Map updating is much better now than when I started using it, but the DTN service is great (I put up my dish this month). Here are a few URLs that I have found most useful:

[www.wunderground.com/data/DAT/MSN.DAT](http://www.wunderground.com/data/DAT/MSN.DAT)

[www.cnn.com/WEATHER/NAmerica/nc/radar\\_image.html](http://www.cnn.com/WEATHER/NAmerica/nc/radar_image.html)

<http://grads.iges.org/pix/pr ed.html> (for 10-day US precip. outlook)

<http://grads.iges.org/pix/te mpl.html> (for 10-day US temp. outlook)

Some have been customized for Wisconsin; use them to get to the main pages.

*Kendall Marquardt, CGCS, Lake Wisconsin Country Club*

## January cover a winter wonder!

Congratulations on the cover photo of the January, 1997 issue. It is beautiful!

Living in the north, we often let the dismal effects of winter get the best of us. How refreshing

to see a national magazine champion the beauty of northern winters with such a picture. Though we often spend many of our days plowing snow, it does not make it any less beautiful.

Ironically, most of us who have to work with it love to play in it (skiing, snowmobiling and an occasional snowball fight).

Great picture!

*Rob McCartney, grounds manager, Sea World of Ohio*

*Thanks, Rob. We want our covers to display the green industry at its best. January's cover was certainly a 'best of' in the category of winter landscape photography. And we're certain our readers who profit from snow removal can relate! —ed.*

## Ga. turfsters on-line

I wanted to let you know of the Georgia Turfgrass Foundation Trust's new website. We are still refining it, but it is available to folks interested in turfgrass, both professionals and consumers.

We try to add important links as they arise, and welcome your comments.

Try: [www.turfgrass.org](http://www.turfgrass.org).

*Doug Moody, executive director, Georgia Turfgrass Foundation, Norcross, Ga.*

