

# Grab Bag

## Answers for turf critics

Turf critics claim that grass uses half of the outdoor water supply. They even go so far as to say that any use of water on turf is a waste. "Low water use" plants or "native" plants are suggested alternatives to eliminate water shortages.

Truth is, says Doug Fender, executive director of the Turf Resource Center, only one percent of the surface and ground-water used in the U.S. is taken for domestic purposes. And of that amount, only one-third is used for outside purposes, which includes washing cars, filling swimming pools and watering gardens and lawns.

"Eliminating lawn watering would have minimal effect on America's total water use," says Fender. "However, the resulting loss of turfgrass would be catastrophic to the environment."

Use caution, says Fender, before you chase after "low water use" or "native" plants. These species' water use characteristics have not been as thoroughly researched as turfgrass, he says.

"Education about when and how to water, mow and fertilize is the most effective way to promote more healthy lawns that can provide sound environmental benefits," says Fender.

The Turf Resource Center is a division of Turfgrass Producers International, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

## Old landscapers never die...

...they just go to pot! Seen at the Cleveland 'Floralscape' show, this flower pot man managed to stay motionless for the show's duration! Pot-man's stony countenance is a testimony to his endurance as a show attraction. And he works dirt-cheap! Tom Barco, a general manager at Barco's Liberty Gardens, Medina, Ohio, assembled the figure after seeing a photo of a smaller version. The company does an extensive container business, and 'pot-man' was a great tie-in, says Barco. The annual 'Floralscape' show, held in March, draws companies and consumers from all parts of Ohio, with lots of over-the-counter selling and some displays of lightweight equipment.



## From one legend to another:

*"When he is in the right mood, he is probably the greatest scorer in the game...possibly that the game has ever seen."*

—BOBBY JONES, ON GENE SARAZEN, LEFT, WHO THIS MONTH GETS THE DONALD ROSS AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS.

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