

# Grab Bag

## Engines take a beating

Agronomist Pat Gross, writing in the *Divot News* of the GCSAA of Southern California, says, generally, the average operating condition and engine RPMs for turf equipment is the equivalent of an automobile engine going 60 mph. A triplex greens mower used two hours a day for 624 hours a year equates to 37,440 miles per year, using the automobile analogy; and fairway mowers run more than 100,000 miles in a year. "Hopefully," writes Gross, "using these examples to justify new equipment purchases will meet with nods of agreement instead of a look of bewilderment."

## Ammo plant to finally blossom

A former ammunition plant near DeSoto, Kans., is being converted into a horticultural research and education center designed to help the ornamental horticulture industry. Thomas Warner, head of horticulture at Kansas State University, said researchers will be doing a wide array of applied investigations of green industry plants and food crops. The ammunition plant, built in the 1940s provided propellant ammunition primarily during World War II. The EPA spent two years studying the site and gave it a clean bill of health.



## Fine stonework for a secluded spot

This residential landscape pond was designed and installed by Urban Environments, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. The client wanted to renovate a failing patio space by using a water feature. A secondary request was to add an outdoor spa. More than 10 tons of ebony granite were used to form walls, line the pond and accent the paved areas. Glengary brick covered 1200 square feet of walkway and patio area. Silver charcoal patio stone was used to inlay the brick areas and provide a transition to the natural, rustic setting. Extra special challenges included: finding plants that were less appealing to deer; a 30-day deadline; and the need to protect large trees from root zone damage. Thanks to Laurie Macruski, Sharon Cotter and Joel Korte of Urban Environments, for the report.

*"The winter of 97-98 is almost upon us. It will be a winter of great inconsistencies, mostly due to El Niño. Some of us will have tremendous record-breaking snows, and some of us may end up with little (if any) snow to work with. Such is life in our industry. Unpredictability and uncertain cash flow projections."*

—JOHN ALLIN, WRITING IN THE SIMA (SNOW & ICE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.) NEWS.

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