



Spray technician, Charles Whitlock, applies the herbicide to the roadside as fellow technician, Kevin Johnson, attends to the sprayer.

spraying of some 50 miles of post-and-cable and fencelines every six weeks. His crew also sprays around the bases of trees so that mowing crews don't have to mow right up to tree trunks.

"Our goal is to reduce the amount of time it takes for the mowing crews to get through," says Bird.

Before Bird began managing the spraying operation, the spray crews were using Roundup for all trimming procedures. The mow-

**D**uring his 20 years as a certified golf course superintendent, Bill Bird thought he had a hectic schedule. Then he became horticulture/park maintenance supervisor for the Oklahoma City Parks and Grounds Division. He now manages a half-dozen sections dedicated to improving and maintaining green areas of the city.

Bird is busier than ever.

"I probably criss-cross the city two or three times a day checking on various projects and crews," says Bird, who worked at four golf courses in the Oklahoma City area before joining the Parks and Grounds Division in March 1997.

"Our employees plant about 700 trees each year, maintain all parks and playground equipment, operate a greenhouse for

all plantings, do tree trimming, and plant all flower beds—to name a few things. I also oversee all park chemical spraying and operations."

Since Oklahoma City has more than 100 parks covering about 6,000 acres, Bird handles

ing crews then would come into an area two weeks later, allowing time for Roundup to take effect. Generally, the crews would mow any vegetation still growing.

"In the spring of 1997, temperatures were cooler than usual and that delayed the effect of Roundup, which has to be translocated within the plant," explains Bird. "So, before the herbicide could get into the plants, the crews were line-trimming the vegetation and we were losing the effect of the Roundup. It also cost a lot more in manhours for the trimming."

While still a golf course superintendent, Bird first used Finale Herbicide for spot spraying dallisgrass in closely-mowed turfgrass areas. He liked the herbicide's mode of action and speed of activity. Soon after he began working for the city, he submitted a proposal requesting that his spray crews begin using the herbicide in all line-trimming operations. The city approved his proposal.

"Once we changed over to Finale, the mowing crews could see exactly where the chemical was sprayed within two or three days," says Bird. "The beauty of the product is its fast action. Instead of a two-week wait, we moved the trimming operation up to four or five days. The trim crews also weren't cutting areas they weren't sure about anymore. Vegetation turns a bright yellow after Finale is sprayed, so the crew can definitely notice

## Oklahoma parks crew reduce line trimming





Horticulture/Park Maintenance Supervisor, Bill Bird (left) with William Jensen, spray technician.

which areas have been sprayed.”

Five two-person spray crews apply the product at the rate of 2 ounces per 1,000 square feet with John Bean sprayers. One person drives the truck

The herbicide “changed things overnight for us,” says Bird. “Once we started using it, we had everything back on schedule within three weeks. It was a trial program last year, but it worked

with flashing lights while the second walks with the hose and sprayer along the fenceline or post-and-cable. They also spray the herbicide in a 2½- to 3-foot radius around trees to control vegetation without having to girdle the tree by trimming too closely.

so well that we switched the whole line-trimming operation to Finale for this year.”

Bird also oversees a 35-acre arboretum where the greenhouse is located. In addition, he oversees the AmeriCorps program, which trains young people to trim trees, and plant and care for more than 100 trees a year in blighted areas of the city.

“All of my departments are busy at different times of the year,” says Bird. “I haven’t experienced any downtime since taking this job. Fortunately, I like staying busy.” **LM**

## TurfGrass Trends delivers . . .

. . . practical turfgrass management information you can use today

**Yes!** Begin my subscription to **TURFGRASS TRENDS**

**U.S. & CANADA** .....  6 Months \$96.....  1 Year \$180

**ALL OTHER COUNTRIES**.....  \$210 (1 Year)

Payable in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Back issues available at \$15 each, prepaid.

My payment enclosed. (Make checks payable to **TURFGRASS TRENDS**.)

Please Bill Me

Charge my subscription to:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Fax completed form with credit card information to 218-723-9417 or 9437, or mail coupon with your payment to **TURFGRASS TRENDS**, 131 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802-2065.

*Charges will appear on your credit card statement as Advanstar Communications Inc., which publishes and distributes this magazine.*

★  
AN ADVANSTAR PUBLICATION

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Internet/E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

