

# Grab Bag

## NGF to study the 'state of the game'

The National Golf Foundation reported in August that it would begin a comprehensive study on the future of golf. The study will analyze the current golf growth environment, examine changes made over the past 10 years and make some predictions about what lies ahead in the next decade. Golf demand in specific demographic segments of the population—including "baby boomers" and their children—will be studied.

## Big harvest for '98

Pennington Seed, Inc. has announced that it will harvest more than 100 million pounds of turfgrass seed this year. As dramatic as that number sounds it accounts for only 10 percent of the one billion pounds of turf and forage seed produced industry-wide.

The unusually rainy conditions during the winter and spring benefited the Oregon crops, which annually produce half the seed worldwide, increasing turf seed supply. Increased acreage and strong yields mean good news for retailers and consumers. Turf-type tall fescue pricing could drop 10 to 15 percent and Kentucky bluegrass and perennial rye varieties could be 5 percent lower.

Supplies for varieties produced outside of Oregon are also plentiful.



## Last look at one of 100

The Mohonk Mountain Resort, New Paltz, NY, is truly deserving of *LM 100* membership. John van Etten is the grounds manager at the 500-acre, 110-year-old resort. This organic show garden is one of the many highlights.

## 21,000 attend Expo in Louisville

The International Lawn, Garden and Power Equipment Expo was successful once again in attracting both exhibitors and visitors in its 15th year.

Of the 613 exhibitors, 218 were either returnees to the Expo after a break or new, while 68 were recognized as having exhibited every year of the Expo, and 174 companies exhibited in the demo area. In attendance were international exhibitors from Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland.

Of the 21,135 visitors, 35 percent were dealers; 34 percent were lawn and landscape professionals; 12 percent were distributors; 10 percent merchandisers/buyers, retailers, lawn and garden centers; and 9 percent were manufacturers representatives.

## Arizona companies form compost alliance

The Groundskeeper, parent company of Desert Compost, and Western Organics, Inc. have joined forces at Desert Compost's Tempe, AZ facility. Western Organics will manage the site, receiving, mulching and composting yard waste, grass clippings, sawdust and wood waste products. This will allow The Groundskeeper to focus on its core business and maintain its commitment to environmental sensitivity.

Grab Bag features brief observations and prognostications throughout the green industry. If you have an unusual photo or comment you'd like to share with us, please send it in...