

cleanup crew

THIS AND THAT

D.C.-AREA GREEN INDUSTRY STATISTICS

- **Average hourly wages for landscape and similar trades:**
hourly labor rate, estimate: \$9 without supervisor; \$11.50 with supervisor¹
- **Annual wages for 1998:**
Landscape and horticultural services: \$20,360
Building construction general contractors and operative builders: \$34,402
Retail nurseries, lawn and garden supply stores: \$17,875
Miscellaneous general merchandise stores: \$15,239
Eating places: \$11,173
Building cleaning and maintenance services, not elsewhere: \$13,069²
- **Average single family lawn size:**
Overall average is about 7,000 sq ft; in DC area close to 5,500 sq ft.³
- **Number of area landscape equipment and product dealer/distributors:** 1264
- **Number of lawn/landscape companies in the area:** 783⁴
- **Landscape Contractors Association of MD VA and DC member firms:** about 210⁵
- **Number of certified chemical applicators for lawn/landscape:**
VA: 322 in the Arlington-Fairfax area⁶
DC: 240⁷
MD: 306 statewide: 1,2258

SOURCES:

¹JEFF TOPY, THE BRICKMAN GROUP AND CURRENT PRESIDENT, LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSN OF MD VA AND DC;

²US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS; MIKE WALD, REGIONAL ECONOMIST, ATLANTA

³CHRIS FORTH, REGIONAL AGRONOMIST FOR TRUE GREEN CHEMLAWN;

⁴AMERICLIST, NORTH CANTON, OH (800/790-0096; WWW.AMERICLIST.COM)

⁵LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS OF MD VA AND DC;

⁶VIRGINIA OFFICE OF PESTICIDE SERVICES;

⁷WASH, DC BUREAU OF TOXICITY, PESTICIDE PROGRAM;

⁸MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION

Humdinger of a prize

Irritrol Systems is making buying its products pay off in a big way. Just ask irrigation contractors Chad Bagley and Linda Rast, who were the first two winners of five Hummer safari trips Irritrol Systems will give away through its No Limits contractor program. Bagley, from Bagley Lawns, Pasco, WA and Rast, from Star Irrigation, Arlington, TX, were selected from thousands of No Limits entries in a random drawing. Three additional Hummer safaris will be awarded in monthly drawings to be held in July, August and September 2000. In addition, one Hummer vehicle will be awarded to one grand prize winner in September 2000. The grand prize winner will be selected from all entries received during the five-month promotion. The deadline to turn in entries for the grand prize drawing is August 31, 2000. The No Limits program is open to owners and principals of landscape and irrigation contracting companies headquartered in the U.S. Participants earn one drawing entry for every Irritrol Systems product they purchase between April 1 and August 31, 2000.



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And the winner is...



Lou Kobus of Village Turf, Mount Vernon, VA, supported the Evergreen Foundation out of the goodness of his heart. After all, the non-profit group provides greenway projects around the country with cash support and gift-in-kind contributions of work, machinery or materials. But by signing up as a member during a recent membership drive, he got more: a weekend for two at the John Deere Classic PGA golf tournament in Moline, IL last month. Way to go, Lou! Anybody interested in helping the Evergreen Foundation should call Den Gardner at 877/758-4835 or log on to www.evergreenfoundation.com.

Labor talk

"It's no longer a question of just 'Get me some labor,' it's more specific. Contractors want good workers whose legal status is solid. H2B addresses those needs."

— Scott Evans, C. Scott Inc., Bay City, TX, talking about how federal audits can turn up illegal immigrant workers, and how, if a worker repeatedly fails to produce a question-proof Social Security card, he or she can be barred from working in the U.S. again.

SMART TRIMMER

M. J. [unclear]

WATCH YOUR FINGERS
WATCH YOUR FINGERS

