

# industry almanac

NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Harper Industries acquires Goossen

**HARPER, KS** — Harper Industries, Inc., acquired Goossen Industries, Beatrice, NE, and its product line of straw blowers, chippers/shredders and power plate skid-steer adaptors.

## Drew St. John joins Symbiot

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT** — Symbiot Business Group has added Drew St. John to its management team as vice president. St. John, immediate past president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA), joins Steven Glover, Symbiot president, and board members John Allin, Rod Bailey, William Braid and Bruce Wilson.

## Shindaiwa awards Challenge groups

**TUALATIN, OR** — Shindaiwa awarded prizes to Beautiful Landscapes, Issaquah, WA, Houston Landscapes Unlimited, Sugarland, TX, and Lawn South, Roswell, GA, for completing their first 52 weeks of consistent training in Round 1 and 2 of The Training Challenge, a training program created by JP Horizons Inc.

## Rockscapes moves headquarters

**CHATSWORTH, CA** — Rockscapes, LLC has completed the move of its commercial and residential landscape lighting manufacturing and headquarters operations to an expanded facility in Chatsworth, CA.

## Minnesota limits phosphorus fertilizers

Adios phosphorus. Hello weaker turf, uglier lawns and more pollution. That will be the payoff if Minnesota legislators keep picking on the chemical lawn care industry, says Jim Skillen of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), the Washington-based lobbying group that represents fertilizer and specialty chemical users.

On April 3, the Minnesota House passed (116-16) a bill to restrict the use of phosphorus in turf fertilizers applied to lawns. The bill would allow no phosphorus-containing fertilizer to be used on home lawns, commercial properties or public properties in the seven-county Twin Cities area, and no more than 3% phosphate in fertilizer (0.3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.) used on lawns elsewhere in the state.

The bill exempts agriculture, sod farms golf courses, and starter fertilizer use in the first year of a seeded or sodded grow-in.

### Taking action

The House took the action to slow the decline of the state's lakes and ponds, their reasoning being that phosphorus stimulates blue-green algae growth, reducing oxygen for fish and more desirable aquatic plants.

"The purpose of this bill is to bring some uniformity across the state in the use of phosphorus and to provide educational information so that consumers can know when they ought to be using it and when they shouldn't be," said Rep. Peggy Leppik, the bill's sponsor. She said testing has shown that soils in many parts of the state have enough phosphorus, and that additional phosphorus would only end up in lakes and streams.

RISE's Skillen, however, disputes that

lawn care chemicals, including phosphate, are the bad guys in the water quality issue. "There is absolutely no scientific foundation for this legislation," he claims, adding that research has shown just the opposite — that healthy and well-maintained turfgrass prevents runoff and reduces pollution into lakes and streams.

"The legislatures don't have science to support the position they have taken," echoes Christiane Schmenk, director of environmental stewardship, The Scotts Co., a supplier of consumer turfgrass fertilizer. One bright note

in the legislation is a clause calling for additional research on the subject, she adds.

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, fearful that its agricultural members could be targeted next, lent its weight to RISE and the lawn care industry in opposing the restrictions. However, unless there is a change of heart in the Minnesota legislature, the restrictions will go into effect January 1, 2004.

"There is no scientific foundation for this legislation."

— Jim Skillen, RISE

[CLIPPINGS]

## West, South growing most

The 10 states with the largest projected increase in population 1995-2025 (in millions):

State	1995 population	2025 estimated
California	31.5	49.3
Texas	18.7	27.1
Florida	14.2	20.7
Georgia	7.2	9.9
Washington	5.4	7.8
Arizona	4.2	6.4
North Carolina	7.2	9.3
Virginia	6.6	8.4
New York	18.1	19.8
New Jersey	7.9	9.5