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# WEEDS TREES and TURF

Volume 12, No. 7

July, 1973

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## The Cover

As malls and shopping centers have risen, the demand for landscaping with large trees has grown. Tree moving is becoming big business with specifications and bids submitted as part of an overall contract. Our cover shows the moving of large trees into this intercity mall. Large tree moving can add years of landscape beauty instantly to a desired location.

WEEDS TREES and TURF is published monthly by The Harvest Publishing Company, subsidiary of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Executive, editorial headquarters: 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

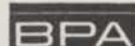
Single Copy Price: \$1.00 for current and all back issues. Foreign \$1.50.

Subscription Rates: WEEDS TREES AND TURF is mailed free, within the U.S. and possessions and Canada, to qualified persons engaged in the vegetation care industry and related fields in controlled circulation categories. Non-qualified subscriptions in the U.S. and Canada are \$10.00 per year; other countries, \$12.00 per year. Controlled circulation postage paid at Fostoria, Ohio 44830.

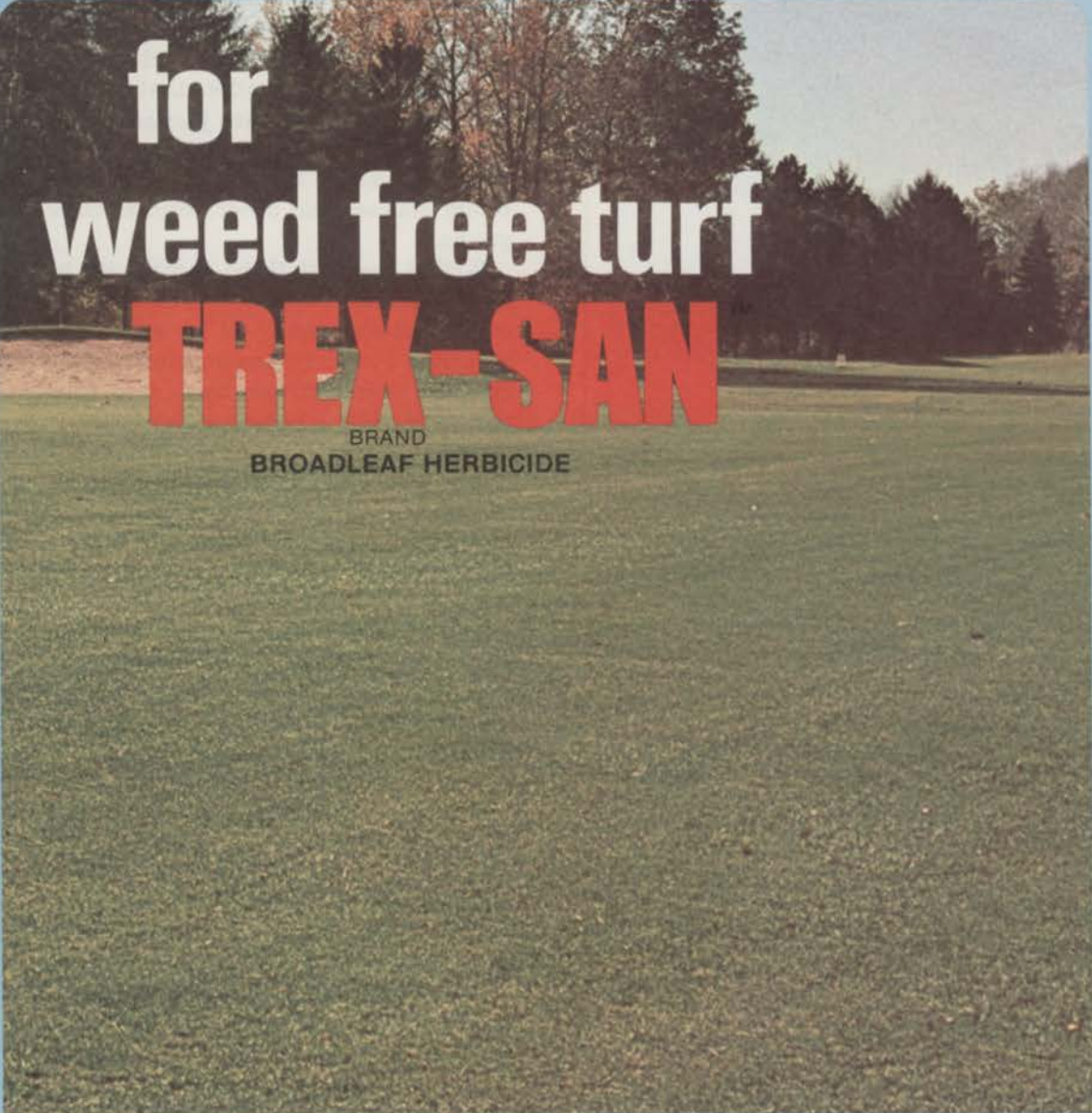
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**Editorial**

**Safety, A Six Letter Word**

It is not surprising that organizations of the shade tree care industry have taken defensive steps to more clearly define safety requirements and specific job functions within the industry. It has been our observation that employees of the professional arborist are just as accident prone as the non-professionals and "storm scavengers" who shun industry association participation, state safety courses and other accident-prevention programs.

Within the past three months we have kept an informal tally of safety violations committed by tree climbers employed by selected professional arborists. Just for openers, our list includes climbers who were: struck by a tree branch; cut on the hand with a power saw; shocked by a short-circuited wire; climbing into trees with frayed ropes; wearing the wrong size saddle; struck by objects kicked back by a chipper; not tied into the tree properly; wearing street clothing and shoes in a tree; operating a bucket with outriggers not in place; and others.

In one case a climber grossly miscalculated a lateral move and severely hit his side against a large branch knocking off his eyeglasses and hardhat. Only his safety line (which was not passed around a main leader) saved him.

The recently released American National Standard Z133.L, developed by industry leaders including the National Arborist Association and the International Shade Tree Conference, is an excellent standard for the arborist. Additionally the OSHA manual for arborists compiled for members of the National Arborist Association brings safety snafus into focus. Likewise, state safety programs like the 43rd All-Ohio Safety Congress specifically detail problem situations.

Why then is there an incongruity between these excellent safety measures and the poor on-the-job track record of professional arborists? It is because the employer (arborist) tries to motivate the employee (tree climber) by preaching safety. This method is about as practical as an elastic safety line. The employee soon believes that safety measures are company practices rather than individual practices for himself.

Safety posters can be wall-to wall, plastered on every piece of equipment and riveted on to hardhats, but without individual motivation the tree climber will be safety color blind.

The professional arborist must communicate safety in a climate in which the employee cares first about his own safety, which, in turn, is the company's safety.

Likewise, the associations to which the arborist belongs must be continually motivate members not in safety practices but in job performance of

*(continued on page 72)*

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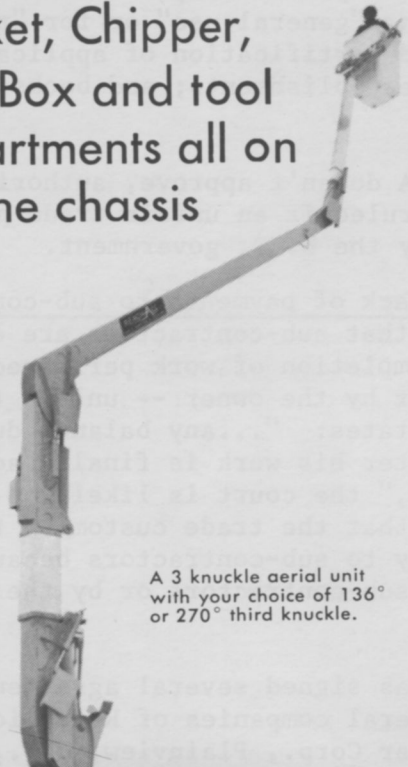
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# Government News / Business

Six sub-groups have been established by the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act. Broad group functions include: registration and re-registration of all pesticides; establishment of criteria to be used for classification of compounds for "general use" or for "restricted use;" employment of "restricted use" pesticides and certification of applicators; experimental use permit regulations; registration of establishments; and books and records to be maintained by producers for inspection.

OSHA APPROVED....Don't believe it! OSHA doesn't approve, authorize or endorse products. The Federal Trade Commission has ruled it an unfair trade practice to misrepresent products approved or required by the U. S. government.

Court judges are taking a dim view of lack of payments to sub-contractors. New York and California justices have ruled that sub-contractors are entitled to payment by the prime contractor following completion of work performed, without regard to final payment to the prime contractor by the owner -- unless the contract otherwise states. If your contract clause states: "...any balance due the sub-contractor shall be paid within 30 days...after his work is finally accepted and approved by the architect and/or engineer..." the court is likely to accept this at face value. A New York court recently said that the trade custom of the prime contractor paying when he is paid does not apply to sub-contractors because they have no control over the work performed by other sub-contractors or by the general contractor.

Lawn-A-Mat Chemical & Equipment Corp. has signed several agreements to acquire the physical manufacturing facilities of several companies of Republic Corporation of Los Angeles. Included are: United Stellar Corp., Plainview, N.Y., Starlight Tool & Mfg. Corp., Joplin, Mo., and Coinmeco, Inc., Illion, N.Y. Lawn-A-Mat will exchange 650,000 shares of stock for the holdings.

Federal Ombudsman for Business is a focal point in the Federal government where businessmen can come directly with questions, complaints or problems which may be solved by informal arbitration. To date this service has handled more than 8,200 requests from businessmen and others in the 24 months of its operation. These entail such topics as government procurement, financial assistance, truth in lending and advertising, occupational safety and health, wages and hours, standards, and industrial pollution. If you need help, write: Thomas E. Drumm, Jr., Ombudsman for Business, U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D. C. 20230, or call (202) 967-3178.

American Garden Products, Inc. has announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire Cal-Turf, Inc. Finalized terms of the acquisition involved a consideration of about \$1.33 million in cash, 12,000 shares of American common stock and contingent payments based on future profits of Cal-Turf.

The freeze on prices of all merchandise and services has created new concerns and new responsibilities for retailers. Most guidelines have been spelled out by the press. What about pricing new merchandise never before offered for sale. The Cost of Living Council says to apply the customary initial percentage markup on the most nearly identical merchandise sold in the freeze base period to the invoice cost plus freight of the new merchandise.



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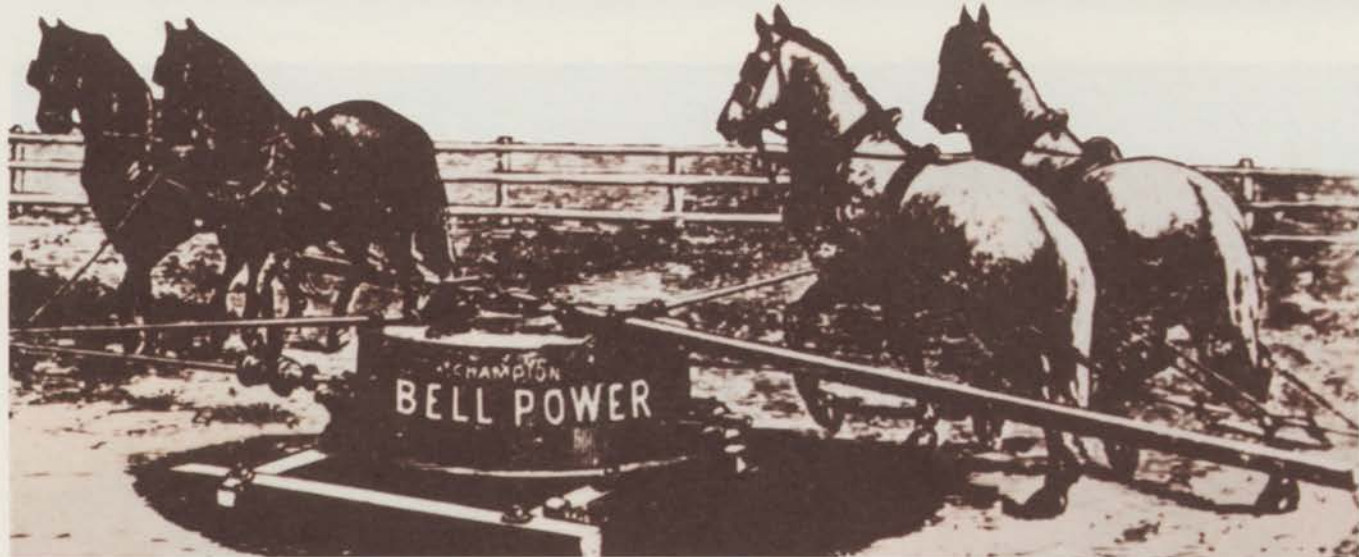
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