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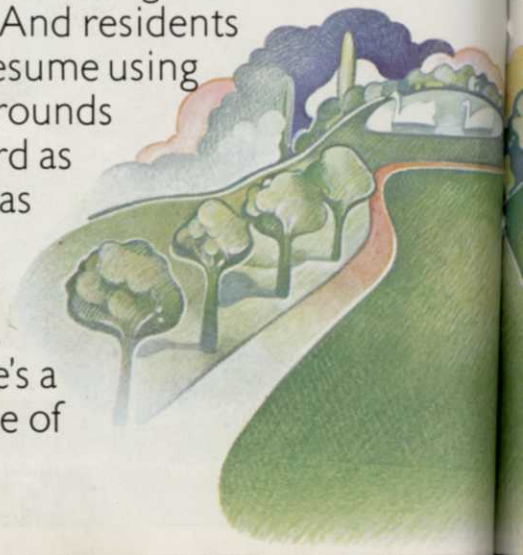
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BACK.



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"Embark" is the Reg. TM of 3M Co.

Before using any pesticide, always read all label directions and precautionary statements carefully.

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GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

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VIEWPOINT

Bruce F. Shank, Editor

In April, I asked if you would let us know about your job promotions and awards. Well, I've got news about promotions on the magazine.

Ron Morris, who joined WEEDS TREES & TURF in May 1977, has been promoted to technical editor effective immediately. Ron is a

graduate of Purdue University's turfgrass management and agricultural communications programs. He served under Dr. William Daniel and Dr. Ray Freeborg as a turf research assistant and is currently assisting in the production of their new book, "Handbook for Turf Managers," to

be released this summer.

Ron wrote the major features on spraying systems and fertilizers that appeared early this year. He has attended numerous industry shows this year to familiarize himself with current research in all areas of the Green Industry. He will be responsible for constructing a central data bank of all applicable research taking place in the United States and in foreign countries.

By doing this we hope to quickly link your questions in the Vegetation Management and Proscap columns to the individuals doing the most up-to-date research on that particular topic. This will also shorten the period of time between research completion and publication of the information for the persons in the field. This period is often six or more months and then the information is published in professional journals which the average lay person doesn't receive. Every person in public or private institutions performing any type of applicable research is now being contacted.

In other news, Scott Scredon, who is currently assistant editor of our publication GOLF BUSINESS, will join the staffs of WEEDS TREES & TURF and LAWN CARE INDUSTRY as assistant editor. Scott will specialize in the field of landscaping to improve our coverage of this vital area.

Finally, Bob Earley, the visible editor of LAWN CARE INDUSTRY, will advise me on happenings in his industry which effect the entire Green Industry. He will also represent WEEDS TREES & TURF at industry functions he attends. Since Bob was at one time editor of this magazine, he is very familiar with all aspects of the Green Industry.

What we are doing is organizing a group editorial office to serve all industries within the Green Industry. Each industry will get the attention it requires and needs, and all the industries together will be able to share common problems and to reach independent solutions.

If you haven't noticed, we are moving at a very fast pace in improving our contribution to your business. We are developing resources which will be both superior to those presently in existence and centralized for all industries to benefit.



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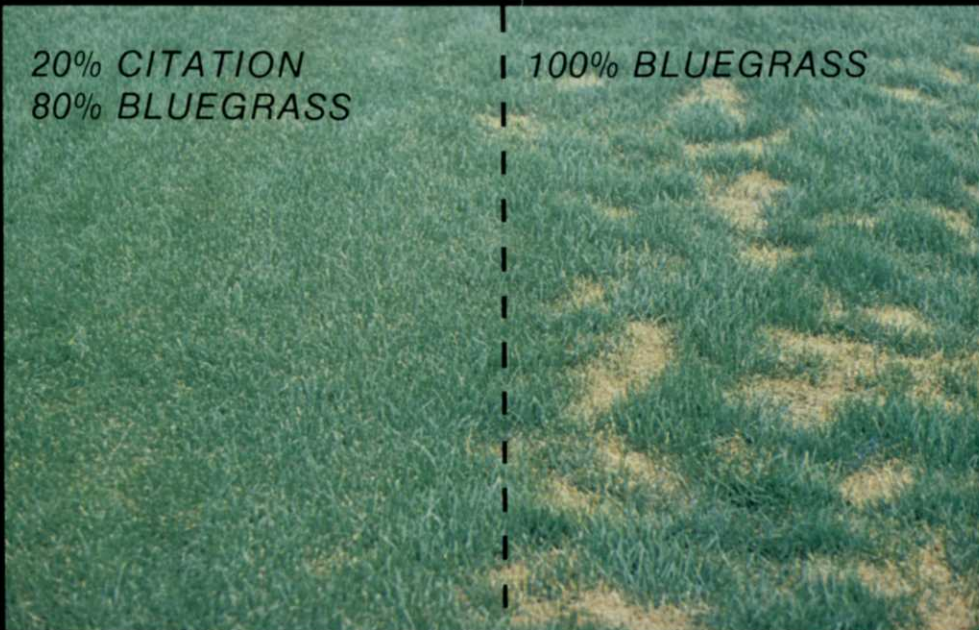
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"PROGRESS FROM THE GROUND UP"

LETTERS

I am writing in response to a letter written by Mr. Eric Madisen, Jr. Editor, *Park Maintenance*, in the March, 1978 issue of *Weeds, Trees and Turf*. My purpose in writing is certainly not a personal grievance with Mr. Madisen nor with parks people because I count numerous park and recreation directors and maintenance supervisors as close professional friends and associates in the Pacific Northwest. My question is, who are the parks professionals and what is their position in the important issue of turfgrass management. In my view we have two distinct professional groups in parks — the administrators (P and R directors) and the professional grounds supervisors. Frequently in small park districts this individual is one and the same. He has to double as the director and the supervisor.

With regard to the golf course superintendents receiving too large a slice of the cake in research and attention in publications such as *Weeds, Trees and Turf*, I feel it is because they are better organized and show a great deal more enthusiasm, interest and support in these areas than many parks people particularly in the Pacific Northwest. I am sure that parks people know that most of the research conducted is as adaptable and useful to parks as it is on golf courses, but when we hang the name of a golf course on released information it is usually branded as being suitable only for the golf courses. Fairways and tees on golf courses are very similar to the management of most park areas. Work done on putting greens in research and by the golf course people, especially from the standpoint of specialized soils, is easily adapted to high use playgrounds and athletic fields in the parks system.

I have attended many parks meetings including meetings of the NRPA and find that most of the attendance is composed of administrators. The person actually responsible for making decisions in turf and ornamental maintenance is frequently not present at these meetings where technical information about this type of management is being discussed. Furthermore it appears that the maintenance supervisors are not as well organized as the administrators and they have

less exposure to turfgrass conferences, field days, workshops, etc.

It also appears, from where I sit, that parks have placed their emphasis on hiring professional administrators which is highly justifiable and neglecting to hire highly skilled and trained people to supervise what happens to the park maintenance system. Highly experienced or college trained agronomists and horticulturists should be considered for key roles in the parks system.

I would have to ask the question also, is there a movement in the parks system for professionally upgrading the maintenance supervisors such as the progress made by golf superintendents over the past 20 to 30 years.

In conclusion, I would encourage the parks to get better organized on the maintenance supervision level and give these key people opportunity to professionally improve themselves and you will find there is lots of help available. I will be very happy to work with parks people as I have for the past 20 years, but a little organization will tremendously improve their professional status.

Roy L. Goss, Agronomist
Washington State University
Puyallup, Washington

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