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**Cover:** Photo taken on the job by Larry Holkenborg, immediate past president of The National Arborist Association.





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# John Deere, as everybody knows, is a place you go for tractors.

What do you think of when you think of John Deere? Probably not air compressors. Or alternators. Or high pressure washers.

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We have snow blowers for clearing away snow, backpack blowers for cleaning up leaves and debris, and high pressure washers for washing trucks or trailers.

And we have a whole line of power equipment for lawns and gardens: tillers, lawn mowers, nylon line trimmers, edgers and chain saws to name just a few.

We even have electronic bug killers. And a long list of other items not shown in this ad: carpenters' tools, mechanics' tools, lawn and garden tools, etc.

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# Wherever annual weed

"Out here, crabgrass is our biggest complaint, and Balan in the spring works like a charm."



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"If you've a goosegrass/crowfoot problem, a shot of Balan early in the summer takes care of that problem; but nothing makes our courses look worse than green patches of Poa after the Bermuda's gone dormant, so we apply Balan in the fall, too."

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# WT&T OUTLOOK



The interior landscape industry has grown up and has assumed its well-earned position in the Green Industry. Its challenges in improving materials and techniques for indoor plant displays will certainly fill pages in future issues of Weeds Trees & Turf. There is always excitement and curiosity when a related horticultural field does well. Even though everyone may not participate in that market, it can add a new dimension to our own personal store of information on the science we live by. It makes my job as a journalist as interesting as a newspaper reporter covering a major fire. Hopefully, the interior landscape market and our

coverage of it will keep you reading this magazine for the latest trends and news on our Green Industry.

Beginning in the next one or two issues, we will begin offering technical assistance on tropical and semitropical plant problems. This will round out our present technical assistance through the Vegetation Management column and monthly technical features. We hope you'll take advantage of our offer to help you, no matter what area of the Green Industry your question concerns. Don't forget, one of the cards stuck in every issue is designed just for your questions and comments.

## WT&T LETTERS

Your stab at the Green Industry in the 1980's is very exciting, challenging and useful. It represents a lot of hard work and thought.

Congratulations! I hope your readers study the article and profit by it. I can assure you that I will.

C. Edward Scofield  
Executive Vice-President  
Ra-Pid-Gro Corp.  
Dansville, NY

*Ed has written market forecasts for magazines such as Flower and Garden and Horticulture. He has been part, not merely an observer like me, of professional landscape horticulture for many years. The opportunity is in our markets, we've got to go after it, it won't come to us. Thank you for your support Ed.*

In the Vegetation Management section of the November issue there was a question concerning weed control in a garden center. Here in Arizona we are finding a woven polypropylene fabric called ProPak ground cover to be superior to black plastic for weed control in nurseries and garden centers. The fabric does

not disintegrate in the heat as does polyethylene. Water can seep through it, it resists tearing, and it doesn't become slick when wet

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W.D. Murphy, Jr.  
Agric. and Diversified Prod.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Congratulations on landscape emphasis in your magazine. The article on street trees by L.E. Phillips, Jr., in the Dec. 79 issue might be enlarged to include urban street tree planting and community cooperation with local park department maintenance forces in watering, weeding, reporting damaged trees, removal of litter, etc. I've learned that placing the walks next to the curbs helps solve salt and utility problems. Planting trees inside of the walks gives the trees better protection from cars, buses, trucks and the pollution associated with them.

A.F.  
Landscape Architect CT

*Thank you for your suggestions. The best contribution this magazine can make is to serve as a place to exchange ideas and advice. We'll proceed on an article on street tree planting and cooperation with public agencies as you suggest.*

Thank you for the opportunity to receive your magazine. My students and I appreciate the up-to-date information on parks and golf course maintenance plus equipment maintenance tips.

L.B. Instructor  
Rolkum, CA

*I'll repeat it for those who didn't see our offer in the last issue. Instructors of programs relating to the Green Industry are entitled to a complimentary subscription for reference purposes. At the same time we offer a half-price subscription rate for students, extended one year following graduation. We want our future businessmen and women to benefit from our efforts throughout their learning and earning lifetime.*

FEBRUARY 1980. Good until May 1980

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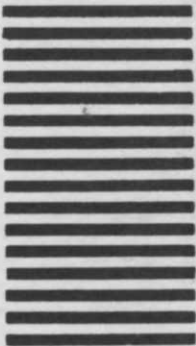
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**Weeds Trees and Turf** is glad to answer your questions or publish your comments on any green industry topic. Questions will be answered by industry experts in the Vegetation Management or Proscape columns. Comments will appear in the Letters or Viewpoint columns.

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# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

EQUIPMENT

## Shipments of equipment to decline

The average forecast of 21 companies who responded to an industry outlook survey by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute is for an overall 5 percent decline in selected industry shipments for the 1980 model year, which began Sept. 1, 1979.

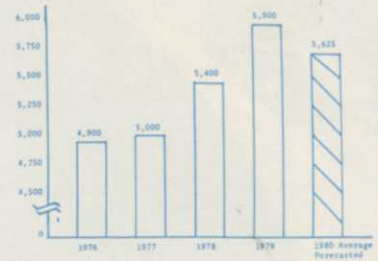
With the exception of rotary tiller shipments, which are expected to remain about the same, the projections indicate a decline in shipments of walk-behind mowers, lawn tractors/riding mowers, and garden tractors.

Shipments of walk-behind power mowers are projected at 5.6 million units, a 5 percent decline from 1979's estimated 5.9 million units. Lawn

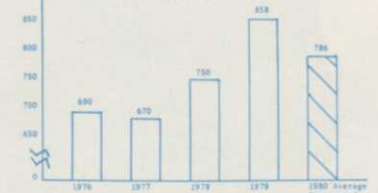
tractors/riding mowers are expected to decline by 12 percent to an estimated 786,000 units, while a 10 percent decline to 228,000 units is seen for garden tractors. Rotary tiller shipments are expected to increase slightly from 1979's estimated 571,300 units to 572,500 units in 1980.

The major economic indicators relevant to the lawn and garden industry support these projections. The consumer price index should increase 10 percent in 1980 while the gross national product (in 1972 dollars) should increase a mere 1.9 percent. Housing starts should be 1.5 million, the unemployment rate at 7 percent, and producer prices for finished goods at 10.5 percent.

Walk-Behind Mowers  
In Thousands



Lawn Tractors  
In Thousands



Data from Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

FORESTRY

## Congress approves urban forestry program

Congress has passed the Urban Forestry Assistance Program, which is appropriated for approximately \$3.6 million for fiscal year 1980.

The bill is subject to annual appropriations and keeps urban forestry with about the same funds it received in 1978, when the Cooperative Forestry Act of 1978 was passed.

The Senate Appropriation Act had originally scheduled zero dollars for urban forestry, but the House had passed the same amount as in 1979, says Richard Greffenius, a forester at the Forest Service. When it went to conference committee, the Senate resolved its differences and agreed with the House appropriation.

The President, in an attempt to cut his budget, had also not recommended money for urban forestry. All of the interested parties, including the American Forestry Association, the International Society of

Arboriculture, and the National Association of State Foresters, contacted congressmen who serve on the committee that has jurisdiction, committee staff people, and whoever else was involved.

Money for the program has risen slightly from the 3.5 million in 1978 to slightly more than \$3.6 million for fiscal year 1980, but some of this will be taken out for a travel reduction. The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act has a section that requires state forestry agencies to get at least what they received in 1978. The state foresters, themselves, agree they would like to get an even share of increases or decreases, says Greffenius.

Approximately 90 percent of the appropriated money goes to state forestry agencies. They can use it within their agencies or subgrant it to cities, towns, organizations, or individuals who qualify for it as long as they spend it toward the purpose of the act.

ACQUISITION

## American Garden to merge with Amfac

American Garden Products, Boston, MA, has agreed to merge with Amfac, headquartered in Honolulu, subject to approval by American Garden's stockholders.

Amfac, a New York Stock Exchange company, is involved in a diversity of activities which includes the production and marketing of horticultural products. American Garden's Board of Directors determined that Amfac's strong ties to production, wholesale distribution, and retail merchandising would be helpful to American Garden's operation.

TURF

## Study shows effects of cold on bermudagrass

A study done by two agronomists at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in



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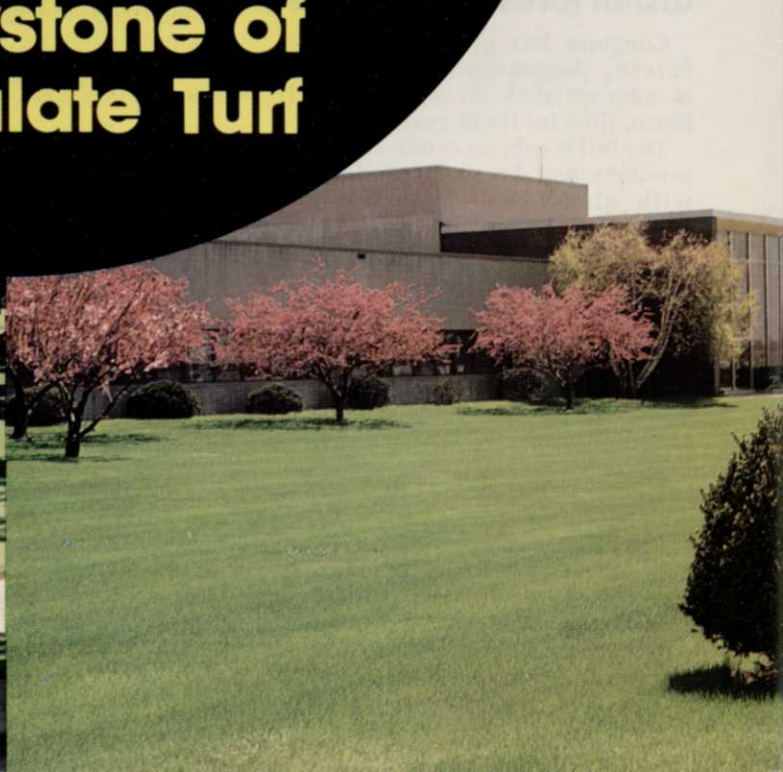
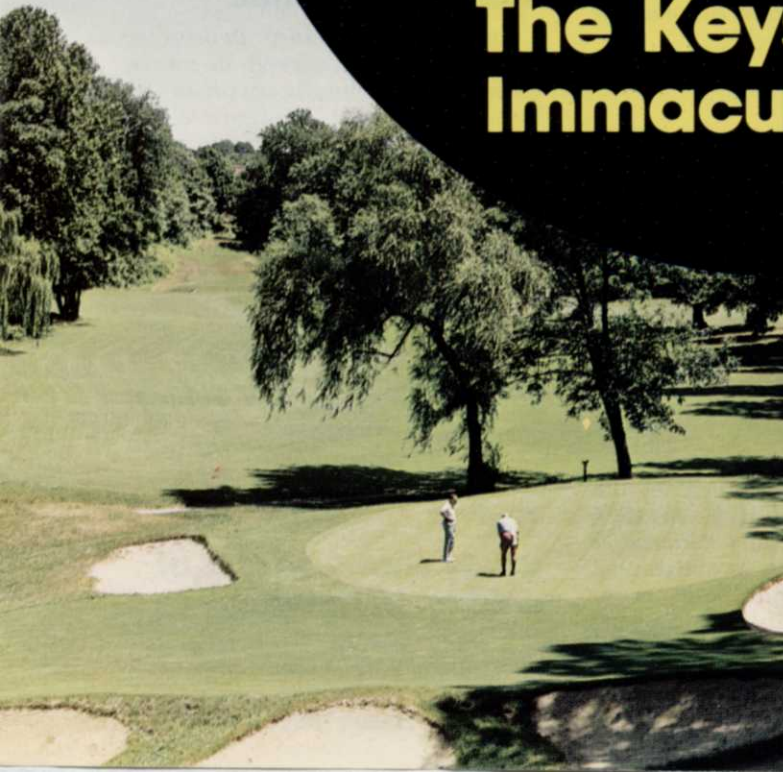
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